FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-094
Monday
16 May 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-094 *16 May 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Talks on 'Final Status' of Territories Held in Vienna *[HATZOFE 13 May]* 1
'Arafat, Peres To Meet; More on Vienna Talks *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 15 May]* 1
Syrian, Israeli Positions on Peace Outlined *[London AL-HAYAH 13 May]* 1

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief on Efforts To End Fighting in Yemen *[MENA]* 2
League Team Member Describes Mission in Yemen *[Cairo Radio]* 2
Russia Offers Arab League Help in Yemeni Crisis *[MENA]* 3
Arab League Official Regrets U.S. Terrorism List *[Damascus TV]* 3
Arab League Chief Meets Somali Foreign Minister *[MENA]* 3
Arab Lawyers Demand Lifting of Sanctions on Iraq *[MENA]* 3

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 6 May 4

Palestinian Affairs

Police Battalion Leaves Cairo for Gaza Strip *[Cairo Radio]* 6
Police Cross Rafah Border Point En Route to Gaza *[MENA]* 6
Police Forces Continue To Take Over Sites in Gaza *[MENA]* 7
Commander on 'Positive' Cooperation With Israel *[Jerusalem International]* 7
Policeman Faces Court Martial for Boy's Death *[Jerusalem Radio]* 8
U.S. Provides $5 Million for Palestinian Police *[MENA]* 8
Appointment of Security Head Announced *[Algiers VOP]* 8
'Prominent' Figures Accept Posts in Autonomy *[JORDAN TIMES 14 May]* 8
'Ashrawi Declines National Authority Post *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 10
'Ashrawi Explains Rejection of Post *[AFP]* 11
Difficulty in Forming Administration Reported *[Stockholm Radio]* 11
'Urayqat on Self-Rule, Police Tasks, Elections *[Cairo International]* 12
'Arafat May Go To Jericho by Mid-Jun *[Tunis Radio]* 13
'Arafat Declares Fridays 'Official Public Holiday' *[Algiers VOP]* 13
PLO, European Commission Sign Memo of Understanding *[Algiers VOP]* 13
Abu-Sharif: Evacuate All Settlers From Territories *[Algiers TV]* 13
10 Factions Said Moving Operations to Territories *[AL-MAJD 9 May]* 14
Hamas Reportedly To Cooperate With PLO Police *[Tehran Radio]* 14
Hamas Rejects Cairo Accord, Vows To Pursue Jihad *[Al-Quds Radio]* 14
Hamas on Plans for Opposing Autonomous Authority
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 13 May] 15
Hamas Official on Cairo 'Farce,' Military Action *[AL-MAJD 16 May]* 15
Hamas Said To Reject 'Arafat Offer of Council Seats *[HATZOFE 13 May]* 16
Hamas Spokesman Views Self-Rule Position *[AL-UFUQ 11 May]* 16

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Chairman of Arab-Islamic Rally Party Murdered 19
Lawyer's Death Follows Abduction *[AFP]* 19
Party Expresses Condolences *[Algiers Radio]* 19
GIA Claims Killing of French Nationals *[Paris TV]* 19
Security Forces Kill 20 'Armed Group Members' *[Algiers Radio]* 19

Egypt

Mubarak on Yemen, Peace Talks, Domestic Issues *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 19
Mubarak Statement on Yemen, Gaza-Jericho *[MENA]* 25
Musa on Peace Talks, Yemen Crisis *[London MBC TV]* 25
Musa on Peace, Bosnia, Foreign Relations *[MENA]* 28
Gunmen Kill Soldiers, Policeman in Asyut 29
Three Security Men Fatally Shot *[MENA]* 29
Policeman Killed En Route to Work *[MENA]* 29
Minister Says Situation Under Control *[MENA]* 30
Security Raids Net 'Terrorist' Leaders *[Cairo Radio]* 30

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

Yemeni Oil Minister To Brief Officials on Crisis *[Aden Radio]* 31

Yemen

Roundup of 13-16 May Clashes in North, South 31
Battles Rage for al-Dali', Kharaz *[AFP]* 31
Sanaa Denies Loss of Aircraft, Ship *[INA]* 31
Aden Confirms Sanaa Losses *[Aden Radio]* 31
Al-Dali' Reportedly 'Purged' *[Sanaa Radio]* 32
Al-Dali' Citizens Vow Loyalty *[Sanaa Radio]* 32
Musaymir Recapture *[AFP]* 32
Sanaa: Advances on al-Dali'-al-'Anad Axis *[Sanaa Radio]* 33
Battles Continue in al-Dali' *[AFP]* 33
Aden Reports Sanaa Heavy Losses *[Aden Radio]* 34
Aden Denies Northern Advances *[Aden Radio]* 34
Commander Prepared To Capture Aden *[Cairo Radio]* 34
Sanaa Troops Advance in All Sectors *[Sanaa Radio]* 34
Commander: Troops 15-20 km From Aden *[Sanaa Radio]* 35
Al-Dali' Fortifications Blown Up *[Sanaa Radio]* 35
Sanaa Official Details Operations *[Sanaa Radio]* 35
Sanaa Forces Advance Toward Aden *[INA]* 36
Yemeni Socialist Party Offers Cease-Fire Plan 36
YSP Official on Conditions *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 36
Details of Proposal *[Aden Radio]* 38
North Rejects Plan *[AFP]* 38
YSP Denounces Sanaa's Rejection *[Aden Radio]* 38
Arab League Delegation Visits Northern Region 39
Inspects Sanaa Missile Impact Site *[Sanaa Radio]* 39
Received by Presidential Council Member *[Sanaa Radio]* 39
Received by Deputy Prime Minister *[Sanaa Radio]* 40
Aden Council Calls For Arab League Intervention *[Aden Radio]* 40
Aden Citizens Asked To Support Northern Forces *[Sanaa Radio]* 40
'Ali Nasir 'Not Party' to Conflict, Willing to Mediate *[London AL-HAYAH 13 May]* 41
Government Officials Return From Saudi Arabia, Eritrea *[Sanaa Radio]* 41
YSP Official Denies Party Wants To Secede *[Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 8 May]* 42

Al-'Attas Urges Return To Dialogue *[Damascus Radio]* 42
Oil Minister: Production Unaffected by Clashes *[Aden Radio]* 42
YSP Official: Dialogue Only Solution to Crisis *[Aden Radio]* 43
Al-Bid Reportedly Ready To Quit To End War *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Al-Bid's News Conference Comments Criticized *[Sanaa Radio]* 43
YSP Group: Salih's Declarations 'Unconstitutional' *[Aden Radio]* 44
Ba'th Party Denounces Use of 'Destructive Weapons' *[Sanaa Radio]* 44
Minister Visits 'Purged' al-Dali', Promises Aid *[Sanaa Radio]* 45
Unity Celebrations To Be Held in All Governorates *[Sanaa Radio]* 45
House Speaker Holds News Conference on Situation 45
Forming New Government Salih's Prerogative *[Sanaa Radio]* 45
House Members Continue Duties *[Sanaa Radio]* 46
YSP's al-Dali: Dialogue Needed; al-Dali' Retaken *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 46
Basindwah: Northern Troops Aim To "Blockade" Aden *[AFP]* 47

IRAQ

'Aziz Meets U.K., Djibouti UNSC Delegates *[Baghdad Radio]* 49
'Aziz Meets Vorontsov, Ekeus *[INA]* 49
Situation in N. Iraq 'Chaotic'; Clashes Continue *[IRNA]* 49
Regime Reportedly Uses Napalm in Attack on North *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 49
Kurdish Party Calls For Uprising Against 'Agents' *[INA]* 49

ISRAEL

Jericho Turned Over to Palestinian Control *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
IDF Commander on Jericho Turnover *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 50
Settlers, Yeshiva Students Enter Jericho Synagogue *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
IDF Evacuates Division Headquarters in Gaza *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
Peres: No Peace Without Full Golan Withdrawal *[HATZOFE 13 May]* 50
Peres on Histadrut Elections, Peace Process *[Jerusalem Radio]* 51
'Expectations' From Christopher Visit Previewed *[HA'ARETZ 15 May]* 51
Cairo Accord Said To Perpetuate Status Quo *[HA'ARETZ 12 May]* 52

JORDAN

King: Country Not To Interfere in Yemeni Affairs *[JORDAN TIMES 14 May]* 54
Dismissed Yemeni Oil Minister Holds News Conference *[AL-DUSTUR 15 May]* 54
Economic Talks With PLO Conclude in Amman 55
Closing Session Postponed *[Amman Radio]* 55
Talks End; Free Trade Outlined *[Amman Radio]* 55
'Main Points' of Accord Listed *[JORDAN TIMES 14 May]* 56
Syrian Economic Delegation Arrives for Meetings 57
Al-'Imadi Heads Syrian Team *[Amman Radio]* 57
Al-Majali, Delegation Discuss Ties *[Amman Radio]* 57
Minutes of Committee Meetings Signed *[JORDAN TIMES 16 May]* 58
U.S. Senate Bosnian Arms Resolution Welcomed *[Amman Radio]* 58
Paper: 'Not Much' Expected From Christopher Visit *[JORDAN TIMES 15 May]* 58
Minister: On-Land Inspections To Begin 'Soon' *[Amman TV]* 59
Britain Says 'Never Part' of al-'Aqabah Blockade *[JORDAN TIMES 16 May]* 59

LEBANON

Christopher Tour Faces 'Risks and Difficulties' *[Beirut Radio]* 60
Differences Among Leadership Detailed *[AL-ANWAR 9 May]* 60
Prime Minister al-Hariri's Activities Reported 61
Consults Ministers, Leaves Mansion *[Beirut Radio]* 61
Departs for Damascus Talks *[Beirut Radio]* 61
Returns to Beirut *[Beirut Radio]* 61
Requests Cabinet Meeting *[Beirut Radio]* 61
Phones al-Hirawi, Birri *[Beirut Radio]* 61

SYRIA

U.S. Secretary of State, Delegation Arrive 62
Papers Preview Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 62
Radio Previews Christopher Tour *[Damascus Radio]* 63
Christopher, Delegation Arrive *[Damascus Radio]* 63
Al-Asad Receives Christopher *[Damascus Radio]* 63
Immediate Israeli Response Urged *[Damascus Radio]* 63
Southern Yemeni Official Gives Statement on Crisis *[Damascus Radio]* 64
Yemen's Basindwah Conveys Salih's Message, Departs *[Damascus Radio]* 64
Syrians Evacuated From Yemen Return Home *[Damascus Radio]* 65
Arab League Chief Arrives for Coordination Meeting 65
To Chair Coordination Committee *[Damascus Radio]* 65
Comments on Yemen Crisis *[MENA]* 65
Meets With Al-Shar' *[Damascus Radio]* 65

SOUTH ASIA

Iran

Commentary on Christopher Visit to Syria, Israel *[Tehran Radio]* 66
Yemen Crisis Allows U.S. To Justify Gulf Presence *[Tehran Radio]* 66
Editorial Decries 'Repetitive' U.S. Accusations *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 10 May]* 67
Daily Protests Visit by U.S. Journalists *[AFP]* 67
Reaction Continues to Alleged Embassy Bugging 68
Ayatollah Condemns UK Government *[Tehran Radio]* 68
More Embassies Suspect Bugging *[IRNA]* 68
Western Media Silence Decried *[IRNA]* 68
'Abundant Problems' Hinder Ties *[Tehran International]* 68
Daily: UK Violated Vienna Accord *[IRNA]* 69
IRNA Issues Correction 69
'Legal Channels' To Be Pursued *[Tehran Radio]* 69
UK 'Absolutely Untrustworthy' *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 30 Apr]* 69
British 'Machinations' Denounced *[KEYHAN 1 May]* 70
MP: Tehran Could Break Ties *[AFP]* 70
Committee To Work With Zagreb on Bosnia Aid *[Tehran Radio]* 71
Bosnia Peace Plan 'Reward for the Aggressor' *[IRNA]* 71
Saudi Arabia Bans Bosnia Aid Initiative *[IRNA]* 71
Khamene'i Speaks on Press Responsibilities *[Tehran TV]* 72
Maneuvers Planned Near Iraqi Border *[Tehran TV]* 73

Arab-Israeli Talks

Talks on 'Final Status' of Territories Held in Vienna

TA1305104894 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 13 May 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by HATZOFE correspondent and news agencies]

[Text] Senior PLO members and Israeli legal experts are due to meet in Vienna today for an initial discussion of the final status of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, which is to be determined after a period of temporary self government. This was reported by Palestinian sources yesterday.

"This would be a first meeting between the PLO and Israel on this level," one of the Palestinian sources said. According to the source, the Israelis taking part in the meeting are: Eli Dayan, chairman of the Labor Knesset faction; Labor Knesset Members Yosi Katz and Avigdor Qahalani; Shim'on Shamir, formerly Israel's ambassador in Egypt; and Peace Now representative Orit Rosen.

The Palestinians are represented by Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat; Hasan 'Abd-al-Rahman, PLO representative in Washington; Furayh Abu-Middayn, who was recently appointed member of the Palestinian administrative council; Ibrahim Kar'in, head of the Palestinian information office in Jerusalem; and Rahhab al-'Isawi, a Hebron University professor.

The interim self government in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho region will operate for a limited period, and negotiations on the final status of the territories are to begin no later than three years after the implementation of the autonomy agreement begins.

The two-day "private" meeting in Vienna, however, is taking place with the full knowledge of the Israeli and the PLO leaders, the source told a REUTER correspondent.

The meeting is sponsored by the Austrian Kreisky Fund. It will deal with issues such as refugees, settlements, borders, and the confederation. According to the sources, these issue were left as a basis for negotiations on the final status of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 13 May carries a live telephone interview with Knesset Member Eli Dayan in Vienna. Asked to confirm the above report, Dayan says: "It is true that we are holding a meeting, but not on the issue you have mentioned. It is important to hold meetings with Palestinian representatives and see how they deal with the interim agreement."

[Dayan later denies that he and the other Israelis are following instructions from the prime minister and the foreign minister to discuss the permanent arrangement. Stressing that the meeting is private, he adds: "The interim agreement says that its duration can be cut shorter since, by nature, an interim agreement is temporary. We want it to succeed and want to hear what can be done to promote the permanent arrangement, which is more stable." Dayan goes on to say that he will report to the prime minister upon his return to Israel.]

'Arafat, Peres To Meet; More on Vienna Talks

TA1505080794 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 May 94 p 7

[Report by Copenhagen correspondent Yig'al Rom and Smadar Peri]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will meet in Oslo on 18 May.

This will be the first meeting between the two men since the signing of the Cairo agreement and the evacuation of Jericho.

The two men were invited to participate in the unveiling ceremony of the statue of peace, which was donated to the Norwegian trade unions' research institute by the Jimmy Carter Institute, in recognition of Norway's role in promoting the negotiations between the PLO and Israel.

Former President Jimmy Carter, will also attend the ceremony which will be followed by a debate with Carter, 'Arafat, and Peres on the ways to promote peace in the Middle East.

At an unofficial meeting with Labor Knesset Members held in Vienna over the weekend, 'Arafat's adviser, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, promised that the PLO would abrogate the clauses in the Palestinian Covenant which call for the destruction of Israel. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Tibi said that the clauses would be nullified as soon as certain logistic problems were resolved. He refused to be more specific as to the nature of these problems.

"When the Palestine National Council convenes in Palestine, these clauses will be changed," al-Tibi said.

Although no practical progress was reported in the talks, the participants said on 13 May that they had agreed on the need to dismantle the settlements of Netzarim and Kfar Darom.

Syrian, Israeli Positions on Peace Outlined

PM1305143694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Walid Shuqayr: "Tokyo: Christopher May Carry Practical Proposals"]

[Excerpts] Japanese officials have told AL-HAYAH that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming tour of the Middle East "may bring U.S. ideas and proposals for the sake of achieving progress in the bilateral Syrian-Israeli negotiations."

They pointed out that Christopher's recent visit to Syria "carried a proposal on gradual Israeli withdrawal from the Golan (Majdal Shams First), but Syria did not accept it. But the discussions which have taken place may enable him in his upcoming visit to prepare suitable ideas and proposals regarding practical measures. In that case, Syria will be willing to engage in better discussions with him, in a manner leading to the required progress on this track."

The Japanese officials added: "It seems it is a matter of time as to when give and take will begin between Syria and Israel." [passage omitted]

An authoritative [Japanese] Foreign Ministry source, who asked to remain anonymous, said: "Israeli prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin expressed to us his wish to convey his view to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in connection with bilateral negotiations between the two countries, his conception of peace between them, the regional need for peace, and the need to push Syria to take further steps in these negotiations and to participate in the multilaterals. We conveyed the message to the Syrians. And the Syrians gave their answers to the Israelis' questions we conveyed to them. But they also wanted us—so it seems—to convey their message and position to the Americans." [passage omitted]

The source added: "Rabin believes that Syria is not serious in seeking peace, and he wants it to join him. The Syrians are not far from saying that the time has come to focus on the Syrian track. They rejected the Israeli proposals talking of withdrawing first from one area of the Golan. And their reply to the specific questions the Japanese delegation conveyed to Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' about acceptable proposals regarding the timetable for withdrawal from the Golan was: The Israelis occupied the Golan Heights in six days...the withdrawal can be completed in the same period."

The source pointed out that al-Shar' told the Japanese delegation that "it took Israel less than two years to complete the withdrawal from the Sinai desert, which is much larger than the Golan." He was commenting on Israel's talk of a phased withdrawal from the Golan over eight years.

The Japanese source said that "while Rabin believes Syria is unwilling to conduct a serious and detailed discussion of the issues of peace, environment, and economic cooperation in the framework of the multilaterals, the Syrian side responded cautiously to Tokyo's encouragement to join the negotiations. President al-Asad said he is not against them, but Syria will participate in them only when or after progress has been made in the bilaterals—progress that is practical and clear."

The source believes that "the Syrian position is tactical. President al-Asad is fully aware that the time has come to make a decision, and that the historic moment for peace emerged when he informed U.S. President Bill Clinton at the Geneva summit of his willingness to establish normal peaceful relations with Israel. But he wants a high price for that. He knows that Rabin is willing to relinquish all the Golan gradually and to demilitarize the border. But he wants more than what Rabin is proposing. Maybe he wants clear guarantees."

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief on Efforts To End Fighting in Yemen

NC1405141094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has called on Yemeni leaders to comply with Arab efforts to end the war and to return to the negotiating table.

Speaking at a press conference today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that every Arab wants to see the fighting stopped as soon as possible. He described the situation in Yemen as "painful and serious." He said he spoke via telephone today with Muhmammad Sa'id Bayraqdar, member of the Arab League team currently in Sanaa, to discuss the team's efforts to end the deteriorating situation in Yemen. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid noted that the team will meet later today with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to pass on a message from the Arab League secretary general. The message, he added, is part of the efforts to implement the recent Arab League decision to end the fighting in Yemen, to contain the deteriorating situation, and to start a dialogue among the warring parties. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that it is unlikely that an Arab summit will be held at the present time to discuss the situation in Yemen.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid noted that the Arab League welcomes any Yemeni proposals to end the fighting and bloodshed. He stressed that finding a solution for the Yemeni problem rests with the Yemenis themselves. He pointed out that Arab efforts are seeking to contain the crisis, reach an immediate cease-fire to halt the bloodshed, and bring the Yemeni parties back to the negotiating table to find a peaceful solution for the crisis. This, he added, is the task of the Arab League team now present in Sanaa.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid noted the need to establish a mechanism for settling inter-Arab conflicts. He added: Serious attention must now be given to establishing this mechanism, which the Arab leaders included in the Arab League Charter in 1945, something that shows their wisdom and farsightedness.

League Team Member Describes Mission in Yemen

NC1605071994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0413 GMT 16 May 94

[Interview with Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahab al-Sakit, director of the Arab League's Arab Department and member of the Arab League delegation in Sanaa, by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Is the Arab League delegation's visit to Sanaa for mediation or to learn about the latest developments there?

[Al-Sakit] The mission is in implementation of the Arab League Council's decision of 7 May expressing the Council's concern about developments in Yemen and its desire for peace and stability in this Arab state and founder of the Arab League. Arab League Secretary General Dr.'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has received scores of cables and messages from Arab leaders and popular and nongovernmental organizations demanding that the Arab League play a role in this regard.

[Correspondent] An Arab League role is required, as you have mentioned, but have you sensed a response by the Yemeni leaders accepting the Arab League mediation?

[Al-Sakit] All the Yemeni leaders and people are eager to see an end to the bloodshed in the Republic of Yemen and to cling to legitimacy and to the Yemeni territories' unity and stability.

[Correspondent] The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] has appealed to the Arab League and fraternal Arab countries to intervene to halt the fighting. This means that the southerners are willing to stem the bloodshed and end the war. What about the northerners?

[Al-Sakit] Everyone is demanding a cease-fire. It is in no one's interest that the bloodshed should continue in Yemen. All the Yemeni parties are very eager to stop the bloodshed but the situation requires some contacts, consultation, and [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Sanaa has reportedly rejected a YSP proposal to halt the fighting and control the crisis.

[Al-Sakit] As I said, the sides are eager to initiate the measures necessary to stem the bloodshed.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that the door to dialogue has not been closed and that there is still hope that the parties will resume dialogue and that a political solution to the crisis will be reached?

[Al-Sakit] We think so. God willing, the situation will end as the sincere people of the Arab nation desire.

[Correspondent] Will the League delegation head for Aden?

[Al-Sakit] The situation is not clear.

Russia Offers Arab League Help in Yemeni Crisis

NC1405150794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid received a letter from Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in which he expressed his country's readiness to cooperate with the Arab League in its efforts to contain the Yemeni crisis. The letter was delivered by the counselor at the Russian Embassy in Cairo when Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid received him today.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid welcomed this Russian initiative.

Arab League Official Regrets U.S. Terrorism List

JN1205183094 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] 'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general, has expressed regret and astonishment at the recent unjustifiable U.S. decision to include some Arab states, especially Syria, in the list of states sponsoring terrorism. In an exclusive statement, 'Imran said the U.S. statement has no credibility. Reality proves the error of the information that blemishes Syria's reputation and role. He hoped there will be a fundamental reconsideration of U.S. Middle East policy and that a form of balance and nonalignment will be established.

Arab League Chief Meets Somali Foreign Minister

NC1405115994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, today received Mohamed Ali Hamed, foreign minister of the provisional Somali government. After the meeting, Hamid said that he and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid reviewed the latest developments in Somalia and the efforts toward reconciliation. He noted that a number of ideas are currently being studied and will be submitted to Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid after the 'Id al-Adha holiday. He pointed out that the meeting also dealt with the situation in Yemen and the Arab efforts to contain the situation. He expressed regrets over the events in Yemen and the Yemenis' failure to learn from the tragic experience in Somalia.

Arab Lawyers Demand Lifting of Sanctions on Iraq

NC1405150894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—The Arab Bar Association has expressed its concern about the continuation of the sanctions imposed on Iraq despite the fact that their harmful effects infringe on the Iraqi citizens' basic rights to food and medicine.

In a statement issued today, the association said that Arab lawyers, appalled by the continuation of these conditions imposed on the Iraqi people, appeal to the UN Security Council members and president, the UN secretary general, and international humanitarian organizations to immediately lift sanctions imposed on Iraq.

The statement was issued on the occasion of the debate that the UN Security Council will hold tomorrow to discuss continuing the sanctions on Iraq.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 6 May

NC1305124394

[Parentheses in third take as published]

[Editorial report] The following review of the 6 May issue of Cairo AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Islamists Expected To Win Lawyers Association Elections
2. Students Demonstrate Against Israeli-PLO Agreement
3. 'Abd-al-Rahman Denies Remarks Attributed to Him
4. Media Treatment of Religion Criticized
5. Labor Party Officials Visit Detained Preachers
6. Court Rules Against Dismissal of Veiled Teachers
7. Labor Unions Demand Release of Detained Preacher
8. Yemeni Islamic Unification Party Leader Interviewed
9. Mufti's Thesis on Jews Reviewed
10. Democratic Experiment in Jordan Reviewed
11. Attacks on Moderate Islamists Criticized
12. Report Details State of Confrontation with Islamic Group

ISLAMISTS EXPECTED TO WIN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS

A 100-word report on page 1 by Khalid Yunis says that elections for the Lawyers Association branch in al-Jizah will be held on Sunday [8 May] and that the competition is mainly between "the Islamic Trend List, which includes Ahmad Rabi' Ghazali, Mahir Ghurab, Shawqi Dawud, and Fawzi al-Jazzar, and the Patriotic List." He adds that the Islamists are expected to win.

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST ISRAELI-PLO AGREEMENT

A 210-word report on pages 1 and 7 by Salah al-Nahif and 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad details the demonstrations staged by the Cairo University students on 4 May to protest the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement. The report says the students chanted anti-Zionist slogans such as "Kheyber Jews, Muhammad's army will return" and "Islamic, Islamic, Palestine is Islamic." The report adds that the Islamic trend in the university issued a statement in which "it denounced the agreement and noted that it includes secret clauses according to which the PLO pledges to stop all the anti-Israel media campaigns and to liquidate any political or military campaign by the Palestinian opposition that aims to destroy Israel. The PLO also pledged to protect the lives of Israeli citizens and is not opposed to the building of Jewish settlements." The statement is cited stressing that the 'ulemas of the Islamic nation have unanimously decreed that religion does not allow peace [al-sulh] with the Jews. The statement is quoted as asking: "Do we say that the Koran is wrong and listen to the scared capitulationists?" It is also said to have highlighted the "need to declare jihad to liberate Palestine's territories and the captured al-Aqsa Mosque."

'ABD-AL-RAHMAN DENIES REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM

An unattributed 130-word report on page 7 headlined "'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman denies what has been attributed to him" says: "Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman has denied statements attributed to him by AL-AHRAR, which is edited by Wahid Ghazi. In a telephone contact, he said that what was attributed to him was pure fabrication. He added that an interview by 'Adil 'Abd-al-Baqi and the lies and fabrications it contained do not even merit comment. Muntasir al-Zayyat, the legal representative of the Islamic groups, said that what the aforementioned paper reported never happened, that no one from the weekly AL-AHRAR contacted Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman, and that 'Abd-al-Rahman spoke to none of the paper's correspondents."

MEDIA TREATMENT OF RELIGION CRITICIZED

A 500-word article by Muhammad Ibrahim Mabruk on page 6 deals with the way Egypt's television and media are dealing with the issue of terrorism and extremism. Asking what is happening in Egyptian television and media, he says: "They are confronting terrorism and bullets by making people despise religion and by spreading licentiousness and debauchery. They are confronting terrorism by throwing themselves more into the lap of the secularists. If al-Azhar defends the tenets of Islam against the secularist onslaught, then it is called extremist and is accused of practicing ecclesiastical hegemony and supporting terrorists. But the communists and atheists in general have the right to say whatever they like about Islam and its followers in the name of freedom of thought and interpretation." The writer adds that both the Islamists and the secularists know what they want and the victim is the people, which "has been forced or tempted to sell all its spiritual values and replace them with promised material temptations, which, it soon finds out, are false and in the meantime it has lost both spiritual values and material possessions." The writer then says that it is difficult for a people in such a condition to differentiate between what is right and wrong. Hence the secularists are hard at work to destroy the people's religious beliefs, which are based on Islamic values and concepts and represented by al-Azhar and Islam's imams. Thus, the writer adds, a neutral Islamic television is presented that does not mean or accept anything but "does not conflict with secularism, communism, and licentiousness. A day might come when someone will tell us that Islam does not conflict with overt blasphemy." The writer concludes by wondering whether the regime will respond to the "secularists' demands for estrangement between it and whatever is Islamic. Or will it reassess how far from the true Islamic tenets it has gone?"

LABOR PARTY OFFICIALS VISIT DETAINED PREACHERS

An unattributed 100-word report on page 7 says that Labor Party officials 'Abd-al-Hamid Barakat, Naji al-Shihabi, and Muhammad Ibrahim visited detained Islamic preacher Shaykh Muhammad al-Sharif and party member 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-Lutfi. The visitors conveyed the party leaders' greetings to the two prisoners for their part in serving Islamic propagation. The report says that the two were imprisoned for their propagation work through the Labor Party's cultural and religious seminars. The party leaders, it adds, have appealed to the interior minister to release them.

COURT RULES AGAINST DISMISSAL OF VEILED TEACHERS

An unattributed 350-word report on page 7 details the ruling of the Administrative Court that the education minister has no right to dismiss women teachers who wear the veil. The court said in its ruling that "the veil is not banned either by religious shari'ah or by the law" and therefore the veil remains part of "personal freedom" and should not be banned. A ban "would infringe on personal freedom to dress and would restrict religious freedom."

LABOR UNIONS DEMAND RELEASE OF DETAINED PREACHER

An unattributed 100-word report on page 7 says that the coordination committee of vocational labor unions in Alexandria has demanded the release of Islamic preacher Shaykh Wajdi Ghunaym, who was "arrested four times in a short period and acquitted after each arrest." The committee said that it will organize a sit-in at a date to be announced to protest his continuing detention.

YEMENI ISLAMIC UNIFICATION PARTY LEADER INTERVIEWED

The paper publishes on page 8 a 1,800-word interview with Ibrahim al-Wazir, secretary general of the Islamic Unification and Action Movement in Yemen, by Muna Yasin, in which al-Wazir views the causes of the current crisis and fighting, the vagueness of the U.S. stance on Yemen's unity, the assassinations that preceded the fighting, and his party.

MUFTI'S THESIS ON JEWS REVIEWED

A 3,500-word article on page 9 by Dr. Mahmud Himayah, identified as head of the Propagation Department at the College of Religion in Asyut, reviews the doctorate thesis of Mufti of the Republic Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi that earned him a doctorate from Al-Azhar University and was published as a 1,000-page book. The thesis, he writes, is a historic review of the Jews and "their wiles, schemes, and evil traits," particularly during the time of Prophet Muhammad. The book quotes extensively from the Koran and from Islam's early history to detail how the Jews schemed and plotted against the prophet and even tried to kill him. The writer says that "the odd thing is that this valuable thesis has not been published as widely as it deserves, despite the scientific facts it contains, which expose the danger that the Jews pose to the world and their schemes to control the world and destroy values and morals."

DEMOCRATIC EXPERIMENT IN JORDAN REVIEWED

A first report from Jordan by Ashraf Khalil appears on page 8. The 1,700-word report starts by reviewing the birth of democracy in Jordan in April 1989 and how the Islamic trend won in the first elections. It then moves to January 1993, when a decree was issued legalizing the formation of political parties, the most prominent of which is the Islamic Action Front Party, which is a coalition of the Islamic forces in Jordan. The reporter then interviews some of the leading Islamic figures on the Islamist stance on negotiations with Israel and other issues. The reporter then views the students movement in Jordan.

ATTACKS ON MODERATE ISLAMISTS CRITICIZED

A 400-word article by businessman 'Ali Husni Rif'at on page 9 criticizes the campaign against moderate Islamic thinkers and writers, such as Fahmi Huwaydi. He says that the attacks on him are superfluous and do not deal with the substance of the issues being discussed by the thinker. He adds: "Are these gentlemen not content with their success and incitement against Huwaydi, which led to the disappearance of his calm articles, which hundreds of thousands waited to read in AL-AHRAM every Tuesday? Are they not content with this? Are they therefore continuing their vicious attacks, hoping, God forbid, to morally assassinate this man?"

REPORT DETAILS STATE OF CONFRONTATION WITH ISLAMIC GROUP

A 2,000-word report by Jamal Imbabi on page 2 details a week-long visit he made to Asyut and nearby villages and towns to investigate the roots of the confrontations between the Islamic Group [IG] and the security forces and the effects this is having on the people and life there. He starts by saying that fear and anxiety prevail in Asyut despite the apparent calm. He then goes on to give figures on the victims of these confrontations. He says: "A quick reading of the statistics for the period between July 1992 and 1 September 1993 reflects the extent of the tragedy. During that period, (43) policemen were killed, including (seven) officers while (53) young members of the IG were killed. The figures also show that during the period between September 1992 and April 1993, that is, in just (seven) months, (14) policemen and (31) IG members became victims while the number of victims from among innocent citizens reached (42), killed by the bullets of the IG or the police. The same statistics show that (99) were wounded during this period, including (44 policemen), (8) IG members, and (47) citizens." He then adds: "It became clear during my stay that the IG is the

strongest group in Asyut and its influence there is evident, especially among the young."

The reporter then deals with the emergence of the IG and with the speed with which it spread among the people, citing several local people from Asyut, Dayrut, and other towns and villages. A tribal chief from Dayrut, Haj Muhammad 'Uthman al-Kilani, says: "In the absence of an effective state role, these young men acted as if they were the state. They were successful in extending many services on every level and their leaders were capable. People trusted them to the extent that conciliation between Muslim and Christian families was not effected through the police but through them." The tribal leader and the other figures interviewed blame the government, accusing it of committing grave violations, not against these young ones alone, but against all the people. Television, for example, spared no effort to attack Islam and Muslim scholars were notable by their absence.

The people cited in the report agree that both the IG and the police were at fault for the excesses.

The reporter then says that "as the confrontation is escalating and Asyut has been turned into a military barracks, where its streets are patrolled by armored vehicles carrying soldiers with their weapons ready in a fear-inspiring scene, the government is imposing a curfew on the most tense areas. Hundreds of suspects are brought in daily to the police stations and this has made the citizens fear going out at night. Even shops have closed during the curfews [as published] and this has affected trade and work. Opening up shop, going to the market, or even going to school has become subject to the whim of the officer in charge."

But Major General Sa'd al-Jammal, the assistant security director, tells the reporter that the security organ "is dealing with terrorism in Asyut in a planned and tactical way and does not follow the policy of collective punishment. If this happened it was not intentional. The security forces have drawn up a complete plan to eliminate terrorist operations and its results will appear soon, after coordinating with the governorates neighboring Asyut." On the nature of this plan, al-Jammal says: "It is based on raids of all the terrorist dens across the governorate to capture the terrorists." Another security source reveals: "A strategic plan has been drawn up with the help of a high-level team from the Interior Ministry to set up an operations room that will follow a different method in dealing with the groups so as to capture them before incidents, after identifying them, their escape routes, and movements. This plan also depends on eliminating the weapons trade and financing and on cutting off these groups' contacts with other governorates and with their imprisoned leaders."

The reporter cites an unidentified IG member in Asyut as accusing the police "of starting the confrontation and of deciding to liquidate the group. He said they did so in accordance with instructions received from high-level figures in the West, which made it a condition that the regime should liquidate the IG as part of a general liquidation of the Islamic trend, which the West calls Islamic fundamentalism. The West, led by the United States, linked continuing aid and economic assistance to Egypt with the elimination of the Islamic trend and set a period of two years for doing so, from early January 1993 until the end of 1994." He then adds: "For this reason, the coming days will witness the most atrocious and ugliest campaign to liquidate the IG in all its areas. The confrontation will spread from Asyut to other places, especially Suhaj and Al-Minya." When asked whether the confrontations will move to other areas, the unidentified IG member says: "The state, not us, will start the campaign. Press reports about the arrest of all the IG members are not true. There are only random arrests. Arrested individuals do not belong to the IG. They were detained as suspects." When confronted with the IG's excesses, he said: "I stress to you that only 10 percent of the complaints concern the excesses. I admit that the IG members are not angels. There are some excesses."

Palestinian Affairs

Police Battalion Leaves Cairo for Gaza Strip

NC1405134494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] A second battalion of Palestinian police forces, comprised of 300 policemen, left Cairo today for the Gaza Strip to join their colleagues who are taking over self-rule areas in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

'Abd-al-Hayy 'Abd-al-Wahhab, commander of the Palestinian police force in Cairo, said the main force will leave the 'Ayn Jalut camp in Cairo on 17 May for the Gaza Strip. The force has between 600 and 700 policemen.

Police Cross Rafah Border Point En Route to Gaza

NC1505143294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Rafah, 15 May (MENA)—A new 314-strong Palestinian police force commanded by Colonel 'Abd-al-Majid Fadl Salih crossed at the Rafah border point on the way to Gaza today.

Col. Salih said the unit comes from the 'Ayn Jalut forces in Egypt together with some personnel from the forces stationed in Libya and Sudan.

Salih said the deployment of the Palestinian police forces continues in Gaza and Jericho. He said Badr forces have been deployed in Jericho and Rafah and that the northern, central, and southern sectors of the Gaza Strip have also been covered through deployment in Khan Yunus, Dayr al-Balah, Jabaliyh, and al- Shaja'iyah. It remains for the Palestinian force to deploy in Gaza City and the Eretz checkpoint on the border between Palestine and Israel, he said.

He said Palestinian police forces are now working to maintain security and order and protect vital installations, such as electricity and water stations, custom departments, ports, and airports.

Col. Salih praised the facilities provided by Egypt and the efforts made by the Egyptian Administration at the Customs Office, Passport Department, and border security to organize the entry of Palestinian forces.

Police Forces Continue To Take Over Sites in Gaza

NC1405113394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Rafah, 14 May (MENA)—The Palestinian Liaison Committee has resumed its work in the Gaza Strip to take over the rest of sites allocated for the Palestinian national security forces and to take the final measures for the police forces' deployment.

Liaison officer Brigadier General Ghazi al-Jabali said the handover of police and civilian authority sites in the Jericho area has been completed and that the Palestinian authorities have begun work. He added that police forces are being deployed in the northern part of Gaza in preparation for its handover to the civilian authorities. According to the agreement, he said, the civilian authority should remain in place for a three-year transitional period under the PLO leadership.

Coordination official Colonel Zakariya Ba'lushah said that obstacles impeding the entry of some personnel of the Palestinian national security forces have been removed and the civilian police will assume their duties in providing security as soon as they enter.

Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Majayirah said the forces coming from Libya, Sudan, and Algeria continue to assemble inside Rafah on the international border with Egypt and enter the Gaza Strip in stages according to a timetable being drawn up in coordination with the Israeli side. He added that the Palestinian national security forces are made up of several groups, such as the civilian police, security forces, and intelligence, in addition to civil defense and other police services, who will perform their roles in maintaining internal security and order; guarding military posts, border crossings, and public figures; and maintaining the security of the country, its citizens, and the self-rule areas.

Elsewhere, Major General Nasr Yusuf, commander in chief of the forces, and members of the civilian authority continue to follow up on the withdrawal from various sites, the Israeli withdrawal from the few remaining places, and the deployment of Palestinian personnel in them. This procedure is scheduled to be complete by Wednesday, when the self-rule authorities will assume their role inside the Gaza Strip and Jericho area.

Commander on 'Positive' Cooperation With Israel

JN1505111594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0950 GMT 15 May 94

[Interview with Brigadier General al-Hajj Isma'il Jabr, commander of the Palestinian police force in the Jericho area, by Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Brigadier General Isma'il Jabr, commander of the Palestinian police force in the Jericho area, good evening.

[Jabr] Good evening.

[Mu'addi] How is the situation two days after your assumption of power in Jericho?

[Jabr] The situation here is good and normal. All National Authority departments are performing their normal duties.

[Mu'addi] Yesterday, you met with the heads of the various departments. What was the purpose of the meeting?

[Jabr] The purpose of the meeting was to reactivate and streamline work so that the various departments will continue to serve the citizens.

[Mu'addi] What are the Palestinian police force priorities at present?

[Jabr] Providing security and safety to all people residing in the self-rule area.

[Mu'addi] What is the present degree of cooperation between the Palestinian police and the Israeli authorities?

[Jabr] Cooperation is going on normally on joint patrols and liaison. We solve every problem that faces us. Thus far, I can say there is positive cooperation between the Israeli side and us.

[Mu'addi] Is there a red line or a red telephone between the two sides?

[Jabr] Actually, there is direct contact through the liaison officers.

[Mu'addi] Have you completed your deployment in the city of Jericho?

[Jabr] We are doing our best to redeploy in accordance with our security arrangements.

[Mu'addi] What about the inhabitants' response and cooperation with the Palestinian police force?

[Jabr] Cooperation is very good. There was a great joy over the people's return to their homeland; they were greatly welcomed back home. Great joy is prevailing in the entire region as well as in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

[Mu'addi] What measures will be taken with regard to reporters and Israelis who wish to enter the city of Jericho?

[Jabr] It is natural that reporters and Israelis are welcome as agreed upon.

[Mu'addi] Thank you very much.

[Jabr] Thank you, sir.

Policeman Faces Court Martial for Boy's Death

TA1405050694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] The Palestinian police commander in Jericho, Major General Hajj 'Isma'il, says the policeman whose gun killed a Palestinian boy yesterday and critically wounded his aunt, will be courtmartialed for negligence. Latest reports say the nine-year-old boy 'Amr 'Abid was accidentally shot dead by his brother, who was playing with the policeman's gun. Witnesses said earlier the boy was accidentally killed by a Palestinian policeman.

General 'Isma'il said PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had called on the police to press forward with the investigation and make the findings public. Police said the boy would receive an official funeral with a police escort. Police officers who tried to pay a condolence call on the bereaved family were rebuffed by angry relatives.

U.S. Provides $5 Million for Palestinian Police

NC1405143994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 May (MENA)—In a ceremony attended by Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and member of the Palestinian National Authority Council, held at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo the United States presented $5 million to support the Palestinian police force.

This was announced by a U.S. diplomatic source. The aid shows U.S. support for the Middle East peace process and represents an installment of the $500 million that the United States pledged to extend over five years to back the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, the source said.

The source noted that the United States earlier provided 200 vehicles to the Palestinian authority.

The source explained that the $5 million will be used to finance commodities and services in the first stage, such as raising salaries; moving police units into Gaza and Jericho; securing temporary lodging; and purchasing food, fuel, and clothing. The money cannot be used for military purposes, the source said.

The source said the U.S. grant is part of the U.S. Administration's extraordinary efforts to support and facilitate the deployment of the Palestinian police force so that a secure and stable climate can be created for the continued implementation of the agreement on Palestinian self-rule in Jericho and Gaza as signed in Cairo on 4 May.

Concluding the statement, the source said that the United States hopes its contribution will encourage the other donor states to speed up their vital support for peace in the region.

Appointment of Security Head Announced

LD1405181094 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 May 94

[Excerpt] It has been announced today that President Yasir 'Arafat had issued a decision on 10 December 1993 which stipulated the appointment of Major-General (Musbah Hanafi Saqr) director of preventive security.

WAFA learned that this decision was not made public at the time to protect the secret presence of brother Major-General Saqr in the occupied Palestinian territories, whereby his martyrdom was announced in 1968 in order to protect the secrecy and continuation of his work. [passage omitted]

'Prominent' Figures Accept Posts in Autonomy

JN1405101394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 May 94 pp 1, 10

[By Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] After a week of difficult negotiations, Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has successfully talked prominent personalities from the Israeli occupied territories and the diaspora into joining a Palestinian authority to run autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

By Friday night, at least 17 personalities accepted to take part in the 25-member authority. Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials expected a complete list to be ready in the next 24 hours.

In addition to 15 names announced by the PLO, Palestinian officials said that prominent Palestinian businessman Munib al-Masri has joined the authority, while Dr. As'ad 'Abd-al-Rahman, the Amman-based head of Shuman Foundation, is considering the offer.

Initial reluctance by key Palestinian figures was replaced by approval, apparently in response to Israeli threats to suspend the entry of the Palestinian police force into the Gaza Strip and Jericho and influenced by the wave of popular celebrations that swept the territories over the transfer of Israeli responsibilities to the PLO.

At least two PLO executive committee members, Jamal al-Surani and Jawid al-Ghusayn, were expected to join the authority, and even Dr. Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, who has condemned the economic part of the agreement, might change his mind.

The officials said that Arab—mostly Egyptian—and international personalities involved in the peace process have been trying to convince the architect of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) to join the authority.

The Palestinian authority is expected to include 15 personalities from the occupied territories and 10 from the diaspora—including two women from each category.

Three key figures who had initially refused to take part in the authority either in protest against the terms of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement reached in Cairo on May 4 or against Mr. 'Arafat's single-handed leadership style appeared on top of a list officially delivered by the PLO to the Israeli government on Thursday night.

Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team to the bilateral negotiations with Israel, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and former Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi, accepted to join the Palestinian authority after having snubbed the offer.

Both Mr. al-Husayni and Dr. 'Urayqat have expressed serious reservations about the autonomy deal and had urged Mr. 'Arafat not to sign it. But the biggest surprise was Dr. 'Ashrawi, who has repeatedly declared that she wanted to remain independent to head a Palestinian human rights commission.

In a lecture at the Shuman Foundation two weeks ago, Dr. 'Ashrawi lambasted the PLO leadership for its handling of the negotiations with Israel.

By accepting the post, Dr. 'Ashrawi became one of two prominent Palestinian women on the Palestinian authority. Fatah Central Committee Member Intisar al-Wazir, widow of PLO military leader Khalil al-Wazir, who was assassinated by Israeli squads in 1988, was among the first to accept the appointment to practically the first Palestinian administration of part of the occupied Palestinian territories.

There were no statements made by the leaders especially Mr. al-Husayni, Dr. 'Urayqat and Dr. 'Ashrawi, explaining their position. But it seemed that they had decided to work from within the authority in spite of their dissatisfaction with the agreement itself and Mr. 'Arafat's modus operandi.

Mr. 'Arafat himself was undeterred by the three key leaders' negative comments about the agreement, and instead had challenged them to either join him to shoulder the responsibility or confine themselves to the role of disgruntled observers.

" 'Arafat has been calling each nominee, especially the ones who oppose the Cairo agreement, and urging them not to abandon him at this critical stage," one PLO official said.

According to different accounts, the master tactician has been effectively challenging his critics to join him to face the task of building a Palestinian state instead of taking, "the easy way out."

Israeli threats to delay the entry of Palestinian police if a Palestinian authority was not declared and the enormous shift of the mood in the occupied territories in favour of the agreement have contributed to mellowing the initially vehement opposition to the provisions of he deal.

Mr. al-Husayni, however, is said to have asked for assurances that his authority as leader of Fatah in the West Bank should not continue to be marginalised and bypassed by Mr. 'Arafat, who has been using other channels to convey orders and instructions to the organisation.

Furthermore, the position of Mr. al-Husayni and Dr. 'Urayqat is to a large extent reflective of the stand of the Fatah organisation in the West Bank, that insists on being represented in the Palestinian authority.

According to information available from the West Bank, some influential Fatah rank and file, including young deportees who were allowed to return last month had urged Mr. al-Husayni and Dr. 'Urayqat to accept.

Information available from Tunis and the occupied territories also suggest that many Fatah leaders feared that by boycotting the authority, the actual leadership will be confined to "traditional personalities" that have already accepted Mr. 'Arafat's offer dealing a blow to Fatah.

Faced with reluctance by the historic leaders of the pro-PLO groups in the occupied territories, Mr. 'Arafat went straight to more traditional and conservative figures, sending alarms among the Fatah rank and file.

According to well-placed officials, Fatah officials strongly protested Mr. 'Arafat's attempt to appoint Jamil al-Tarifi, head of the Palestinian liaison committee with Israel, but who is not seen as part of the more militant leadership that secured and sustained support for the PLO over the years.

As names of members of the Palestinian authorities were starting to leak, many feared that it will be a weak body that would further consolidate Mr. 'Arafat's domination and will not challenge further concession to the Israelis.

Yet, it remains to be seen how Mr. al-Husayni, Dr. 'Urayqat and Dr. 'Ashrawi will reconcile between their misgivings about the agreement and being members of the body entrusted with implementing it. Well-informed Palestinian sources said that the three feel that they could influence the continuing process of negotiations, instead of leaving it to Mr. 'Arafat and a small circle of aides in the hope that future steps will pave the way for Palestinian sovereignty.

Other PLO officials were very critical of what they viewed as the contradictory position of the three leaders, who confined themselves to verbal protest but "towed the line" in the end.

Opposition officials, however, declined from attacking any of the personalities who accepted to join.

It was a sign that even the opposition hopes that the presence of outspoken critical members in the authority will pressure Mr. 'Arafat to yield some authority and not to block elections as many fear he would.

So far the Palestinian authority is basically a coalition of Fatah and independents. The major other group is the Palestinian Democratic Union, FIDA, led by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. It was still unclear whether Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh himself will join or confine FIDA's representation to personalities from the occupied territories.

'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, FIDA's leader in the West Bank, was already included in the authority and FIDA officials Sami al-Kilani and Zahirah Kamal are strong nominees. If Ms. Kamal is appointed, the Palestinian authority will include three women.

FIDA has publicly condemned the Cairo agreement but nevertheless decided to join the authority.

The Palestine People's Party (PPP), which has boycotted the last rounds of negotiations, has maintained its stand of refusing to be part of the authority.

Agencies add: PLO difficulties in naming a full slate of 24 member for the Palestinian National Authority has become the latest snag in the much-delayed self-rule plan agreed last September.

The list so far includes Mr. 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee members Samir Ghawshah and Yasir 'Amr, chief economist Ahmad Quray', two deportees and many of the prominent Palestinians who have taken part in peace talks with Israel since 1991, PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'th said.

Asked if all the nominees had agreed, he said: "None of these names is nominated without being fully negotiated first."

The PLO Executive Committee had approved all of them, Dr. Sha'th added at a news conference in Cairo.

Dr. Sha'th transmitted the list to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Thursday afternoon and Israeli consent to it was only a formality, he said.

Dr. Sha'th said Mr. 'Arafat would appoint the remaining nine members within a week.

Asked why the PLO decided to send an incomplete list, he said: "It's because there was a need by the Israelis to be assured on our seriousness in starting to conduct the authority's business."

The PLO has spent much longer than expected making the nominations, which the Israelis had originally hoped to receive about the same time as the signing ceremony on May 4.

Other members including Dr. Sha'th himself, Zakariya al-Agha and Furayh Abu-Middayn from Gaza, Riyad al-Za'nun, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj and deportee 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hajj Ahmad.

Dr. Sha'th said he expected the Palestinian authority would be in place in Gaza and Jericho by next Tuesday but it is too early to say which members would have which responsibilities.

He said he himself had been reluctant to take part but did not feel he could refuse at this stage in the process.

Dr. Sha'th also said that the signing of agreement in Cairo has triggered a "faster pace of fund giving" by Western nations.

He disclosed new donations including 14 million francs ($2.45 million) from France for a police communications system, $2 million from South Korea for computers and other equipment and 58 military vehicles from Greece.

He said that 176 jeeps and trucks donated by the United States for the police from their European stock would arrive in Egypt next Sunday. The police have been hampered by a shortage of vehicles.

'Ashrawi Declines National Authority Post

JN1405180994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 May 94

[Report by Basil Abu-Sumayah from the occupied territories]

[Excerpt] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will be the first Western official at the foreign minister level to visit the Palestinian self-rule area in Jericho. Christopher is scheduled to arrive in the city on Tuesday [17 May] to meet, in the headquarters of the Palestinian National Security Forces, with the commander of these forces, Brigadier Hajj Isma'il; senior Palestinian officers; and leading Palestinian figures, including Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, a member of the Palestinian authority. The U.S. secretary will also meet with Palestinian figures in East Jerusalem.

In a related development, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, former spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation has stressed that she will not participate in the Palestinian authority that is charged with the running of the Gaza sector and the Jericho area. She told our radio that she will give priority to the Independent Palestinian Commission for Citizens Rights. 'Ashrawi is the secretary general of that commission.

'Ashrawi urged Palestinians, including the opposition, to join in building Palestinian society, both in the national

authority, the administrative agencies, and the institutions. She said members of the authority must have competence and credibility and be able to show commitment and will power so they can win the approval of all segments of Palestinian society. She said: There must be an integrated plan for reconstitution with the participation of all. No one can escape their responsibilities and the future challenges. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi Explains Rejection of Post

NC1505084194 Paris AFP in English 0718 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Jerusalem, May 15 (AFP)—The ex-PLO peace talks spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi explained Sunday [15 May] she had turned down a job on the new Palestinian Authority not out of opposition but to focus on a human rights groups she has set up.

"I'm not turning away from responsibility... I'm working on something which I believe is important," she told AFP.

"I have a prior commitment to the Palestine Independent Commission for Citizen's Rights ... and that's where I feel I can be of most use.

"I feel that the National Authority should have people of commitment, integrity and credentials. I have chosen where I want to be and that is one way to participate in building our institutions."

'Ashrawi said she had been asked several times, but consistently turned down the offer.

"My refusal is not an opposition to the authority itself. I have encouraged everyone to participate in different ways in building our institutions. Everyone does not have to be in the Authority," she said.

Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasir 'Arafat named her as one of 15 members to the new self-rule authority for Gaza and Jericho in a list forwarded last week to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

PLO chief negotiator Nabil Sha'th said the Authority would be ready to take up its duties on Wednesday, by when the transfer of power in the autonomous areas is expected to be complete.

But 'Ashrawi is reportedly not the only one to have spurned 'Arafat.

Israeli television said 'Arafat had appointed two other members Saturday—Nabulus businessman Munib al-Masri and university teacher Sari Nusaybah, a Middle East expert.

The appointments were formally approved in Tunis at a meeting of the PLO's executive committee which also nominated Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO's Information Department, to the authority, a committee member Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi told AFP in Tunis.

However, sources close to 'Abd-Rabbuh said he had asked for time to think about it.

'Ashrawi said her commission was now operational from the West Bank town of Ramallah.

"The commission is operational already, but we have had some technical problems such as setting up an office, so we are working from my home for the moment."

Difficulty in Forming Administration Reported

LD1305134194 Stockholm Radio Sweden in Swedish 1030 GMT 13 May 94

[Excerpts] Our Middle East correspondent, Cecilia Udden, reports that cheering Palestinians gathered in the streets of Jericho when Israel handed over power after 27 years of occupation. It is not yet quite clear, however, which Palestinians the Israelis have handed over power to, she reports:

[Udden] [passage omitted] Many people are skeptical of self-rule and skeptical of Yasir 'Arafat's way of exercising democracy. Since December, many leading persons, including spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi, have relinquished official responsibility. But yesterday the PLO announced at a news conference in Cairo that 15 people have been nominated, including Hanan 'Ashrawi, which came as a surprise to herself, according to reports received by this program. [passage omitted]

But one important name is conspicuous by its absence from the list of 15 candidates for the so-called Palestinian government: Dr. Haydar Abd-al-Shafi, the popular and respected doctor from Gaza, who led the Palestinian delegation when the peace talks started. People in Gaza say about Dr. Haydar that he is kind-hearted. I asked him whether he does not feel any pity for Yasir 'Arafat now that it seems difficult to put together a government. But Dr. Haydar is unrelenting.

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording, in English] I said that I am ready to participate if 'Arafat yields to democratic principles. It is his self-made problem. We didn't make the problem for him. [end recording]

[Udden] [passage omitted] The moment of truth will only come when elections are held in the West Bank and Gaza. The election, planned for July, can be held in the fall at the earliest. Dr. Haydar, who refuses to be a member of a PLO-nominated administration, can, however, envision running as a candidate in elections. I do not rule out the possibility, he says diplomatically.

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording, in English] Well, I don't rule that out. I only say it like this: I want to, but it is too early to say. I say I don't rule out my participation. [end recording]

'Urayqat on Self-Rule, Police Tasks, Elections

NC1505081394 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 15 May 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington peace talks and head of the Elections Committee in the self-rule areas, in Jericho, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" Program—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] What progress is there in the transfer of authority to you and what are the tasks of the Palestinian police in the coming stage?

['Urayqat] The Israeli forces' withdrawal from the Jericho area and the transfer of authority in all spheres were completed in the past two days. The Israeli flag in Jericho was lowered after 27 years of occupation and the Israeli Army withdrew, but they left behind a devastated infrastructure. For example, the hospital in Jericho on 14 May 1994 was worse than it was on the eve of 5 June 1967.

Naturally the Palestinian national (?security) forces' entry, deployment in the whole Jericho area, and assumption of their duties swiftly and in an orderly manner had a great impact on the people but the feeling that we have just begun still persists.

The road ahead is long, difficult, and full of obstacles. As a Palestinian, I can say that the planting season has begun but it is not yet the harvest season. This is the time to tighten our belts, a time for continuous hard work to achieve the dream of construction, especially as the normal progress in our areas has actually ceased since 1967.

[Abu-al-Majd] What are your most important worries as a Palestinian National Authority member on Palestinian land?

['Urayqat] The most important issue is the establishment of the infrastructure in the liberated areas, in the areas from which the Israeli forces have withdrawn. The infrastructure includes water, electricity, health, education, agriculture, industry, trade, communications, and roads. As I said, the normal progress and growth of these sectors in 1967, so our tasks are very difficult.

As you know, many countries around the world have extended aid, and studies were conducted (?by) the Palestinian economic team and the World Bank. We hope that the implementation of the scheduled projects, especially in the main sectors, such as health, education, water, and general health, will begin tomorrow if not today.

Regarding other issues facing us, construction is not easy; it is a complex, lengthy process. The Palestinian leadership, led by brother 'Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has adopted strategic resolutions. A date for nationwide general elections and local government elections has been set.

[Abu-al-Majd] When will these elections be held?

['Urayqat] The scheduled date is 15 October. As you know, a comprehensive accord was signed last week with the EC countries, which have become our partners in the election process. Preparations for these elections have been under way since November, when President 'Arafat issued instructions to form a committee for local government and elections. We are now working on all levels, including the spheres of law, training, preparations, and organization, in order to see that elections are held in no later than 15 October. But we must say that elections, whether on the national or local levels, cannot be held without the completion of the Israeli forces' redeployment in the entire West Bank. This means that the talks that began in Washington some time ago should continue and that the transitional phase agreement should be fully implemented as soon as possible so that we will be able to hold elections.

[Abu-al-Majd] And when will these forces be redeployed from the West Bank?

['Urayqat] As I said, according to the Oslo Accord, this was set for 13 July, but the Gaza-Jericho negotiations broke down, which might automatically mean a delay in implementing the accord. Hence, the elections date was changed from 15 July [date as heard] to 15 October and we hope the Israeli forces will complete their redeployment and withdrawal from populated areas in the West Bank no later than the beginning of October.

[Abu-al-Majd] When will 'Abu-'Ammar arrive in Jericho?

['Urayqat] Personally I don't know. I heard yesterday he will return on 15 June, but I say that brother 'Abu-'Ammar must come as soon as possible. 'Abu-'Ammar is used to suffering and building from scratch, and he must be with us to join us in laying the cornerstone of the infrastructure required for all our institutions. We now say that the time for work has begun, although the journey began (?yesterday). As I said, this is a season for planting, not harvesting, and we are all required to unite and pool our resources, efforts, capabilities, and expertise because we now have a chance to lay the foundation for a Palestinian society for the next century.

[Abu-al-Majd] You are demanding unity of the Palestinian fold at this important, crucial stage of the Palestinian people's history. Naturally there some in the self-rule areas who oppose the ongoing peace process. How will the Palestinian police and the Palestinian security forces deal with these groups?

['Urayqat] First, the Palestinian opposition comprises the best of our social-conscious Palestinian people. Their opposition is not to the peace but to the conditions of the peace process. It is their natural right to express their

views and say whatever they want. They are an inseparable part of the Palestinian people. The Palestinian police will act according to the law; all people will be under this law, without distinction. As for public and individual freedoms and freedom of expression, they will be protected by Palestinian law, by the Palestinian authority, by Palestinian society.

Our political life is built on several bases, represented by genuine democracy, political pluralism, and freedom of expression.

'Arafat May Go To Jericho by Mid-Jun

LD1305175794 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 May 94

[Excerpts] The Israeli Army today announced the withdrawal of the last Israeli soldier from the self-rule area in Jericho after almost 27 years of Israeli occupation. [passage omitted]

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who has partially finished the formation of the self-rule government in Gaza and Jericho, has said that he could return to Jericho by the middle of June.

In a meeting with reporters in Tunis today, 'Arafat confirmed that preparations for the elections which would be held in the self-rule areas have already begun under the supervision of Sa'ib 'Urayqat, a member of the self-rule government. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Declares Fridays 'Official Public Holiday'

LD1405174594 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian national authority, today issued a decision stipulating that Friday of each week is to be an official public holiday in Palestine.

The following is the text of the decision:

In accordance with the Executive Committee's decision, and according to the prerogatives invested in him, the chairman of the Palestinian national authority, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, decides the following:

Firstly, Friday of each week to be an official public holiday in Palestine.

Secondly, this decision takes effect as from this date, and those involved in implementing it shall be informed.

PLO, European Commission Sign Memo of Understanding

LD1305180394 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 May 94

[Excerpt] At noon today, Brother President Yasir 'Arafat met Mr. Marin, vice-president of the European Commission. 'Arafat reviewed with Mr. Marin the situation and the developments in the Palestinian territories, and the means of support given by the European Commission to help consolidate the foundations of the Palestinian national authority in order to set up Palestinian institutions.

The Palestinian and European sides signed two memoranda of understanding. The first one is related to making available the necessary support for elections in the national authority and its institutions, and the training of cadres concerned with this issue. The second one is related to providing the necessary support for the Palestinian police force and security. [passage omitted]

Abu-Sharif: Evacuate All Settlers From Territories

LD1405212894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 May 94

[Interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat; place not given; by unidentified studio announcer, in Algiers—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Announcer] We welcome Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat . The first question that comes to mind is perhaps how the Palestinian Authority is going to deal with the parties that still oppose the Gaza-Jericho agreement and endeavor to make it fail?

[Abu-Sharif] We consider opposition as a healthy manifestation, and opposition has the right to express its opinion as it likes, politically and through the media, but violence is rejected in our political life. We will welcome opinions no matter how different they may be, but we will confront violence. We are convinced that all the opposition, including the HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement] movement, will be committed to our democratic traditions that prohibit the use of violence as a means of resolving differences of views.

[Announcer] Some opposition sides consider that this agreement is turning into a simple administration, or something like a self-administration of the population.

[Abu-Sharif] The fact is that this is a first step. No one, neither Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, nor the Palestinian leadership have claimed that this is the solution. Not at all. This is the first step on a long road towards our own independent state with holy Jerusalem as capital.

[Announcer] As a first step you have agreed to the withdrawal of the Israeli Army, but there remain the settlers naturally, and we know that the al-Khalil [Hebron] massacre was perpetrated by an Israeli settler.

[Abu-Sharif] It is natural that we should consider the settlers as part of the occupation machine, and all land on which an Israeli settler is residing is a Palestinian land confiscated in contravention to the international laws, the UN charter and the UN convention. For this reason, we will seek, through negotiations, to secure an agenda for the evacuation of the settlers from our Palestinian land, and no doubt the settlers are the ones who know better about their situation now following the withdrawal of the occupation forces. [passage omitted].

[Announcer] Mr. Abu-Sharif, we know that there has always been talk about the liberation of all Palestine. Now, can Palestine be reduced to just Gaza and Jericho?

[Abu-Sharif] It can't be, naturally. As far as we are concerned, our aim of setting up an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as capital means setting up the state on all the territories occupied by Israel in 1967. This is a literal application of Resolution 242. Furthermore, I would like to clarify beyond any doubt that the Palestinians will not sign a peace treaty with the Israelis so long as is not comprehensive, that is so long as it does not include Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon after Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab lands occupied in 1967, and south Lebanon which was occupied in 1978.

[Announcer] And what is the place of Jerusalem to a Palestinian state?

[Abu-Sharif] Holy Jerusalem is a capital for an independent Palestine, and we will accept nothing short of an Arab Jerusalem, and there will be no peace without an Arab Jerusalem over which an Arab flag will flutter.

[Announcer] Mr. Abu-Sharif, what do you expect from Algeria in the struggle for the construction of Palestine now?

[Abu-Sharif] Algeria has always been a bastion protecting Palestinians whether right or wrong, and we expect the Algerian people that have always supported us in our military battles and in the struggle to back the Palestinian people now to build its own independent state.

[Announcer] Mr. Abu-Sharif, thank you for being present at the 2000 bulletin.

[Abu-Sharif] Thanks to Algeria, and thank you.

10 Factions Said Moving Operations to Territories

JN1405141494 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 9 May 94 p 1

[Excerpt] The Central Command of the anti-'Arafat coalition of the 10 factions has decided to transfer its operations to the occupied Palestinian territories to defeat the Oslo accord and its offshoots. The 10 factions plan to achieve this through mobilizing the masses in the territories to defeat, expose, and isolate the accord.

This was decided at a meeting held by the Central Command last Wednesday [11 May]. The five-hour meeting addressed the latest developments, particularly the Cairo agreement, ways to respond to the recent developments, activating confrontation with the enemy, and the situation of the Palestinians in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Hamas Reportedly To Cooperate With PLO Police

LD1505202594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] A spokesman for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], while pledging to continue the struggle against the occupiers of al-Quds [Jerusalem], announced: The combatants of Palestine's Islamic Resistance Movement will cooperate with the Palestine police in the Gaza and Jericho regions for as long as the laws and regulations of this police correspond with the idea ruling over this Movement.

Hamas Rejects Cairo Accord, Vows To Pursue Jihad

JN1405195294 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has issued a statement renewing its rejection of the Cairo agreement that has thrown away Palestinian rights. The agreement carries the seeds of its failure. What took place in Cairo, the statement emphasized, only confirms and lends legitimacy to occupation. The anniversary of the proclamation of the Zionist entity on our Palestinian territory, which falls tomorrow, Sunday, 15 May, comes less than two weeks after the signing of the ill-boding Cairo accord, and at a time when our protracted conflict with the Zionist enemy is at a crossroads.

The scale of the fraud involving demeaning concessions that capitulationists have sought to sell to our people is now clear to our Palestinian Arab people, and to our Arab and Muslim nations. They cannot any longer whitewash the sins and the aggression they have committed against our people, cause, land, and sacred rights.

Hamas emphasized that far from being the end of the road for the Palestinian cause, the ill-boding agreement is only the end of a stage. Nor does it spell our people's abandonment of the option of jihad against the enemy, or the foreclosure of their ambitions for which countless martyrs have fallen. The Cairo agreement marks the end of a phase in the Palestinian case and the end of the patriotic and militant role of the Oslo, Madrid, and Cairo faction.

Hamas' statement undertook to pursue jihad and the fight for liberation and to consolidate national Palestinian unity. It promised our people to rally their jihad forces together to cope with this decisive phase in our people's history.

Hamas on Plans for Opposing Autonomous Authority

PM1605091294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 May 94 p5

[Unattributed report: "Ghawshah Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Hamas Will Not Use Violence Against Palestinian Autonmous Authority"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has announced that its opposition to the Palestinian autonomous authority in Gaza and Jericho will be political, informational, and popular, and that it will never use violence against it because all the violence will be aimed at the Israeli Zionist occupation.

It said that the opposition circle has increased with some of the negotiation "pioneers" joining it, having been frustrated.

This came in a statement made by Hamas official spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Amman. He said: The members of the Palestinian police are our brothers and sons of the Palestinian people and it is inconceivable in any circumstances that the Palestinian police would confront their own people.

But he added: If there are some sick minds who agree to serve the Zionist occupation, the people inside [the occupied territory] will know how to deal with them depending on the circumstances arising from such behavior.

Hamas' official spokesman defined the mechanism for his movement's political opposition in the coming phase under the Palestinian autonomous authority as follows:

1. Expose and point out the loopholes, mistakes, and drawbacks of the Cairo agreement.

2. Expose the Zionist hegemony over the autonomous administration which began with the entry of the police forces. The members of these forces were subjected to an inspection of their arms and a baggage search, and they were issued with identity cards by the occupation authorities.

3. Explain to all sectors of the Palestinian people that the laws and regulations enforced in the [Gaza] Strip and Jericho will be Zionist occupation laws and regulations and that any amendment or modification will be subject to a certain mechanism and subject to the approval of the Zionist authorities.

4. Explain that the Gaza-Jericho agreement places certain unpatriotic commitments on the Palestinian authority. Hamas and the Palestinian opposition will expose all these commitments one by one, beginning with the undertaking distributed to the detainees requiring them to renounce terrorism and accept the Cairo agreement as a condition of their release, and ending with the assertion that collaborators should not stand trial and should not be harmed.

The Palestinian opposition, Ghawshah said, is currently creating the broadest possible popular base in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and that base is growing every day on the grounds of opposition to the agreement.

He noted that some of the "pioneers" of the Madrid conference and then the Washington conference, such as Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, and some of the Oslo "pioneers" such as Yasir 'Abd-al-Rabbuh of Fida [the Palestinian Democratic Union], and the People's Party and some sectors of Fatah itself, have joined the opposition. Some Fatah detainees refused to sign the occupation's undertaking committing them to acceptance of the Cairo agreement. Not only did they refuse to sign, they also condemned the agreement.

Ghawshah stressed that Hamas is present everywhere and is a skillful player on the Middle East chess board, and that it will act at the right time in the interest of the Palestinian people.

He said that Hamas will not disappoint those who have placed their confidence in it and will play its part fully in continuing the jihad operations against the Zionist occupation.

The official spokesman refused to reveal Hamas' plan in that respect but he said "we have made preparations."

Hamas Official on Cairo 'Farce,' Military Action

JN1605104294 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 16 May 94 pp 1, 11

[Text] Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, the chief of Hamas' Political Bureau, has reaffirmed that resisting the occupation is a strategic option for Hamas until the occupation is defeated and all Palestinian lands are liberated, primarily Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine and the land of the prophet's ascension to heavens and of all holy sites.

In an exclusive statement to AL-MAJD in Beirut, Abu-Marzuq said military action is a primary means of resistance against the Israeli occupation. It has been proven that the Israeli occupation knows no language other than that of force. Take, for example, the outcome of the negotiations, which began with the illusion of the "state" and ended up in the farce of "Gaza-Jericho".

On the Cairo agreement signed recently between 'Arafat and Rabin, Abu-Marzuq said: It is a farce. This agreement, as its clauses show, is worse than the Camp David Accords. The points of this agreement explain the vague Oslo accord in favor of the Zionist enemy and at the expense of Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic interests.

Asked by AL-MAJD about the movement's official position on the agreement and the possibility of dealing with it as a fait accompli, Abu-Marzuq wondered sarcastically: Can any sane person accept this agreement or deal

with it? Especially since many of those who support a settlement are now weaseling out of the agreement and refusing to deal with it.

Abu-Marzuq then said in a very serious tone: This "farcical" agreement does not commit Hamas and its heroes to anything at all. We are going ahead with our jihad scheme without paying heed to what 'Arafat and his tools conclude with the Zionists.

Answering a question about the relationship between Hamas and the alliance of the 10 factions, Abu-Marzuq said: We have a good relationship despite recent reports casting doubt on this relationship, which will remain pivotal for us.

Abu-Marzuq further stressed that Hamas seeks to develop this relationship so the alliance can undertake its important jihad role to defeat the Oslo and Cairo accords, as an indispensable step before resuming the plan of liberation.

Abu-Marzuq, who had just heard about the unjust Zionist bombing of the [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] General Command positions in al-Na'imah, expressed his sympathy and solidarity with the heroes of the General Command, saying: We complement each other in the same trench and course.

On Jordan-Hamas ties after the recent problems resulting from Israeli threats, Abu-Marzuq said: Our brothers in Jordan know well that the threats of Rabin and Peres came to distract attention from Rabin's internal crisis first and from what was being cooked up between 'Arafat and Peres without the knowledge of Jordan, Syria, and the Arabs.

Abu-Marzuq asserted that Hamas is keen to preserve Jordan's security and stability. Jordan is the land of mobilization and steadfastness and the first line of confrontation against the enemy occupying the land of Palestine. Abu-Marzuq said he looks forward to good brotherly and lasting relations with Jordan.

On the fate of the 10 factions that oppose the settlement if a Syrian-Israeli agreement is reached, Abu-Marzuq said he rules out the possibility of such agreement in the short run, considering the solid Syrian position. He stressed, however, that the major organizational body of Hamas is inside the occupied territories. Therefore, it remains free from influence by any Palestinian or Arab agreements.

Commenting on the entry of the Palestinian police force into Gaza and Jericho, Abu-Marzuq said: These forces are from the sons of the Palestinian people and some of them fought heroic battles for liberation. Therefore, we will welcome their presence among the people there as long as they are protecting the people's security. This position will change if these forces change their attitude and turn into political forces to suppress strugglers and opponents from various national and Islamic political currents and persuasions.

Hamas Said To Reject 'Arafat Offer of Council Seats

TA1305103994 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 13 May 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by HATZOFE's political correspondent in Jerusalem and ITIM reporter Dani Zaqen]

[Excerpt] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has recently contacted senior Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members, through PLO men in the territories, and offered them seats on the Palestinian council which is due to rule the autonomy.

These days, 'Arafat is busy setting up the council, which will probably be made of 25 members, 15 of which from the territories. Several PLO officials in Gaza and Jericho have recently approached Hamas notables with an offer to join the autonomy council.

The ITIM reporter has learned that Hamas was offered three seats on the council and one executive post, and later the PLO expanded the offer to five council seats and two executive posts.

The Hamas members rejected the offer, but announced they would be glad to participate in the elections, which are to be held several months after the autonomy is established.

A senior PLO member in Gaza told the ITIM reporter that the Hamas response gives rise to optimism regarding their incorporation in the autonomy establishments—which would force 'Arafat to call the for elections as soon as possible. The ITIM reporter says that the PLO members in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza favor early elections, often contrary to the stand of 'Arafat and his advisers in Tunis. [passage omitted]

Hamas Spokesman Views Self-Rule Position

JN1305172694 Amman AL-UFUQ in Arabic 11 May 94 pp 22-24

[Interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, by Samir al-Hijjawi, "following the Israeli threats against Jordan;" place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Hijjawi] What is the position and viewpoint of Hamas regarding the PLO-Israeli agreements signed in Paris and Cairo?

[Ghawshah] At a first reading, these agreements, which were carried by the media, are amazing. In the past, the [Oslo] PLO-Israeli agreement was opposed for basic and principled reasons. One who is conscientious or patriotic, or one who loves his people will be amazed when he reads this agreement. This is because the agreement gives a complete and perpetual mortgage to Zionist occupation. I want to emphasize three points regarding the gravity of this agreement:

1. This agreement relinquishes both the land of Palestine and the Palestinian people's rights to the lands of their fathers and forefathers.

2. This agreement forces all factions of the Palestinian people into standing on the same slippery road, and places them face to face with one another, so the Jewish occupier can look at them and laugh, exactly as the merchant of Venice, the Jewish Shylock, laughed.

3. This is a false peace. Everything in it is a lie. The hypocritical world blessed the Palestinian and Zionist parties to this agreement. In fact, there is only one party, the Zionist party, which, as Peres said, has no other party to negotiate with. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hijjawi] There is talk about releasing detainees who support these agreements, after they sign pledges not to resort to violence and resistance, and also about excluding detainees who oppose the agreements, including Hamas detainees. What is your view in this regard?

[Ghawshah] This is another tragedy. Regrettably, the Palestinian negotiating delegation, blessed by the Tunis leadership, distributed a pledge among all administrative detainees, so they would sign it, disavow the so-called violence and terrorism, and accept the Oslo agreement.

There are many signs showing that this took place with the knowledge and approval of the Palestinian side. This, in itself, is a tragedy and a crime committed against the issue of prisoners and detainees. The decisions made by the Tunis group cannot be made by an armed Arab Palestinian group. The decisions of this group are almost the same as those of the Zionist enemy. This explains the current state of amazement, frustration, and despair our Palestinian people in the occupied territories are experiencing. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hijjawi] Preparations have begun for the entry of a number of Palestinian policemen [into Gaza and Jericho]. How will Hamas deal with these policemen?

[Ghawshah] The police issue is one of the dangerous mines planted among the Palestinian people. Undoubtedly, Rabin and Peres will laugh too much and exchange toasts when the last Zionist soldier leaves Gaza, because they know that they have put the Palestinian people face to face with each other, and put the Palestinian policemen and 'Arafat's men face to face with the Palestinian opposition, particularly Hamas. This serious image cannot be disregarded by any sincere person. We beseech God not to fulfill the Zionist planners' objectives and aspirations. The Hamas Movement has already said it will not attack the Palestinian police, if this police force carried out its duties of protecting its people. However, the situation will be very serious if this police force tries to chase the mujahidin and to prevent them from carrying out the duty of jihad, which is decreed by God. So, shall the mujahid respond to God's orders, or to this policeman who is executing Rabin's instructions?

[Al-Hijjawi] How you will act if the police force receives orders to fire at your men?

[Ghawshah] I cannot determine exactly how Hamas will deal with future developments, because the circumstance and the event itself will determine this action. However, we hope the Palestinian policemen will have a strong sense of responsibility and will not obey idiotic orders against their own people. We hope the youths of ['Izz-al-Din] al-Qassam will continue to direct their rifles against the Zionist occupation. This is not an easy thing. All faithful and sincere people should not be neutral, but they must prevent any inter-Palestinian fighting. What is taking place in Afghanistan, Yemen, and Somalia is enough. There could be a ray of hope represented by an escalation of the jihad against the occupation troops in the West Bank. These mujahidin and intifadah youths will tell their people: "This is the real battlefield, come and join us." Only then will the crime of self-rule will be exposed.

[Al-Hijjawi] Can we understand from you that Hamas will seek to calm the situation in Gaza and Jericho?

[Ghawshah] Hamas has declared that it will not confront the self-rule by force. This is dictated by the principled and national position. It is true that this is somewhat bitter, but you should drink what is bitter if you want to overcome what is more bitter. Avoiding resistance against the Palestinian police force and self-rule in Gaza and Jericho is a Hamas policy which it will pursue, God willing, in order to spare its people the evils of internecine fighting. At the same time, those who planned the agreement which was signed in Cairo on 4 May 1994 must know that the mujahidin will not stop their jihad and that the intifadah people will not stop their intifadah. If the other party continues to pressure and harm its people, the consequences will be bad to all sides. We hope that this party will not use all its weight to achieve all that the Zionists want. We want to address a message to this party: "You are now on the touchstone, and you must prove that you are with your people and homeland, or otherwise, your people will discard you, and you will become one of those men who collaborate with the occupation and who are tools to it. This is the message we want to address in the name of the movement. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hijjawi] There is a development in Hamas' political approach, which was clear in Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq's statements. Is this development moving toward dealing with specific political facts within the framework of a peace treaty, or is it a truce? Is Hamas still adopting its previous stands?

[Ghawshah] Let me say the interview conducted with Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq contained some mistakes. Some of these mistakes were what was attributed to him about a treaty. The truth is that Hamas cannot agree on a treaty. This is a mistake. However, what Hamas said in the past, and even through Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, is that in case the Zionist forces withdrew and the occupation

was removed, then it would be possible for Hamas to study a temporary truce. The temporary truce does not stipulate recognition of the other party. In the law of war and peace in Islam, truce is allowed. There is no objection to the truce issue, if the terms will be in the interest of Muslims. Regarding whether there has been a change in Hamas' strategic and short-term program, the answer to this is: Hamas' strategic and short-term program has not changed. The Hamas Movement considers Palestine an Arab and Islamic land from the [Jordan] River to the [Mediterranean] Sea. It is also an Islamic endowment. No one is authorized to relinquish one inch of it. Neither Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, nor Musa Abu-Marzuq, or Ibrahim Ghawshah or anyone else can do this. None of them has ever done this. This is part of the Muslims' creed. We cannot recognize the Zionist entity, achieve reconciliation, or hold negotiations with it. This is because as soon as we negotiate with it this will mean an official recognition. If negotiations have to take place, something which is ruled out, they will take place through a third party. What the Hamas Movement proposed was a short-term political view based on its strategic program. This is a reply to those who always say that the Hamas Movement program is nonexistent.

[Al-Hijjawi] How does Hamas view the recent Interior Ministry measures to facilitate Palestinians' movement?

[Ghawshah] The Islamic Resistance Movement was against the disengagement decision, because it was unjustified. We believe any measures adopted to facilitate visits by West Bank people and youths to the East Bank will reinforce the firm unity between the two peoples. We support unity between the two peoples, and Arab and Islamic unity.

Algeria

Chairman of Arab-Islamic Rally Party Murdered

Lawyer's Death Follows Abduction

NC1505105394 Paris AFP in English 0934 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Algiers, May 15 (AFP)—The chairman of the Arab-Islamic Rally party has been murdered after being abducted, press reports said here Sunday [15 May].

Laid Grine, 49, who was also an Algiers lawyer, was found Saturday morning near Algiers with his throat cut, the reports said.

The lawyer had been captured the previous day by unidentified abductors from his house at Bordj El Mokhfi east of Algiers.

There has been no official response to his kidnapping and murder, but press reports said he had succeeded Wednesday in gaining the acquittal of an Islamic fundamentalist being tried by one of the country's special "anti-terrorism" courts.

Party Expresses Condolences

LD1505123894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 May 94

[Excerpt] The Islamic Arab Rally today announced the assassination of one of its founders, lawyer Laid Grine, who was kidnapped from his home near Rouiba and was horribly and savagely murdered.

Following this painful incident, the Islamic Arab Rally and all its party activists present their most sincere condolences to his wife, children, siblings, and relatives and express to them their sympathy.

Mr. Laid Grine started in the profession of lawyer on 28 June 1981. According to information obtained from the Union of Lawyers, the victim was kidnapped by armed individuals from his home on Friday evening at 2300 hours. [passage omitted]

GIA Claims Killing of French Nationals

LD1405121594 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1100 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] In Algeria, the GIA, the Armed Islamic Group, has claimed responsibility for the killing of two French religious figures in the Kasbah, in Algiers, last Sunday. In its weekly publication, the GIA says, I quote, in the framework of the policy of liquidation of Jews, Christians, and infidels in the Algerian land of Islam, a commando laid an ambush and killed two crusaders who have spent many years harming Algeria.

Security Forces Kill 20 'Armed Group Members'

LD1405223294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Twenty members of the armed groups were killed and another 14 were arrested by the security services between Monday [9 May] and Friday last week. The security services said today that this occured in Algiers, Boumerdes, Rouiba, Medea, Blida, Setif, Batna, Tlemcen and Sidi Bel Abbes.

Egypt

Mubarak on Yemen, Peace Talks, Domestic Issues

JN1305072794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 May 94

["Full text" of interview with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak by correspondent Faridah al-Shubashi in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Shubashi] Your Excellency, welcome. This is the first interview you have granted to Radio Monte Carlo since you became the president of Egypt.

[Mubarak] Thank you.

[Al-Shubashi] Mr. President, millions watched on television the signing of the Palestinian self-rule agreement in which you played a major role. Those millions were stunned at the critical moment when they noticed there was a difference over the signing of a number of maps and documents. We would like the president to brief us on the hidden details of these moments.

[Mubarak] I want to make something clear. We must know that the Palestinian question is over 45 years old. Therefore, it is a complicated issue. It became more complicated following the emergence of the two frameworks of the Camp David accords. When the second framework, which deals with resolving all aspects of the Palestinian issue, was reached, the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza were no more than 48 small settlements. Today, after approximately 45 years, there are 180 large settlements. This further complicates the situation. They want to find new places for the settlers who will be moved; they also want to decide on the best way of dealing with those who will stay and their relationship with the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Therefore, the issue is very complicated and other complications will emerge in the coming stages of the negotiations.

They held negotiations over the details following the Declaration of Principles. They spent a long time here to discuss these details. They had almost reached an agreement at 0200 on the day of the signing. We agreed on certain points. The problem was over the areas of Jericho and the Gaza Coast. They held negotiations until dawn. Meanwhile, I was in my office together with the American and Russian officials to help them. When we

reached a delicate stage, the Palestinian brothers and Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] asked for my help. I spoke with Mr. Rabin to soften their stand on the issue of the coast because we want to solve the problem without undermining security. With regard to Gaza, we convinced them to give the Palestinians the largest area possible. What is left is 12 km for security measures [preceding two words in English]. They also added 6.5 km to the area of Jericho. However, after three months they [the Palestinians] will take more area. Abu-'Ammar objected to these two areas. However, one of the Palestinians suggested that even after the signing the talks on the areas of Jericho and the Gaza Coast could continue. They said that they agreed on this.

In the morning, Abu-'Ammar did not sign the map of Jericho and the Gaza coast. Mr. Rabin went to sign, but he returned and told me that he ['Arafat] did not sign the map. We reached a delicate stage. I asked Abu-'Ammar what the problem was. We summoned Nabil Sha'th and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] and we began to talk on podium. We halted the speeches. Rabin said: What am I going to say now? Not all the documents are signed. We took a break and I spoke with them. I told them: You reached an agreement. But, there was no document to confirm the agreement they reached that night. They agreed that Rabin and Shim'on Peres would write a letter that would be approved by the two cosponsors, Christopher and Kozyrev, that they would resume the talks after the signing.

I believe that three months later, they [the Palestinians] will take a larger area in Jericho. When our Palestinian brothers go to control [preceding word in English] and make plans they will find that the administration on the ground is not an easy job. It is easy to talk while you are far away from the area, but when you come to the area you will face the problems of the people who want to live there. They want hospitals, education, and salaries. The new administration will face endless problems. Anyhow, we solved the problem within two minutes and we returned to the podium where they signed the documents.

It is natural to face problems even at the last moment because of the nature of the problem. The road is still long. The Palestinian problem is more complicated than any problem with Jordan or Syria.

[Al-Shubashi] Your Excellency the President: After achieving the Gaza-Jericho step, which is considered the beginning, what is your assessment of the peace process and do you expect expeditious progress, particularly on the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Mubarak] I believe this is the first step with regard to the Palestinian dimension. I was of the opinion that the Palestinians should take the first step. Then, they can start the process of confidence-building with the Israelis, so the Israelis will be reassured. This is because Israel is sensitive about the issue of security for its citizens in order not to instigate public opinion against the government. Therefore, I can say that 'Arafat made a very courageous decision and Rabin also made a very courageous decision in following the path of peace.

Perhaps it is the circumstances have created such a situation, but the Palestine question still has a long way to go. They will start discussing the final solution in a few years time and they will decide what to do with the settlements. It will be a more complicated process. In fact, it is the most complicated issue, that of the Palestinian people.

With regard to the Syrian track, I wish that during this year, or by the end of this year, they will have reached an agreement. This is because I believe the Syrian issue now is that of mistrust between Syria and Israel. Israel says: I would like to know if I will get something in exchange for returning the territory, for example. Syria says: In return for this thing, what will they give me? Thus, the issue is a crisis of confidence. I believe this will take some time. However, I wish that by the end of this year they will have reached an agreement. By that time, they must have understood each other well. Perhaps the Syrian question is not as complicated as the Palestine question. It is only the question of the Golan. Of course, Israel says: The Golan, yes, but we want full normalization of relations [preceding three words in English], including opening borders and establishing diplomatic relations. So it remains for our brothers in Syria to open borders and have an Israeli flag. It will be somewhat difficult. When we first had an Israeli flag, the people felt uneasy about it, but the people will get used to peace. One thing for another. Everything has a price. In the end, everything will seem normal. Israel is a state that exists. Let us be realistic so as to look toward the future and see how our people will live.

As for the Jordanian problem, there are some border questions, but I believe that the Jordanian problem is on its way to being solved.

[Al-Shubashi] Mr. President, what is Your Excellency's reply to those who have fears regarding the establishment of a Middle East market and their fear that Egypt's regional role will recede?

[Mubarak] As a matter of fact, I have heard about a Middle East market. Whenever anyone makes a statement, you hear many analyses and comments. At present, there is no Middle East market or anything of this sort. The people want anything to talk about. Anyone can raise any topic and then the people will start talking about it. This topic was raised by someone, I think Shim'on Peres, and the people are talking in detail about it. It is we who make the elaboration [preceding word in English]. No one will impose anything on us and nothing can happen in the region unless we are convinced about it. Egypt will stay in the lead of any market.

[Al-Shubashi] Mr. President, what are your expectations regarding what is happening in Yemen in light of your intensive contacts and efforts to contain the explosive

situation? Arab and world public opinion is following with extreme interest your contacts with the parties of the Yemeni crisis.

[Mubarak] As a matter of fact, I spoke with the Yemeni president and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid about the question of Yemen. I told them: The situation is not comfortable. There are forces from the north and south in adjacent camps. Please keep the forces away from each other to avoid collision, which may lead to armed conflict. If an armed conflict begins, it will be very difficult to end it. Even if this conflict is halted, many people will have already been killed or wounded, and grudges will result, which will lead to revenge. Afterward, you will engage in guerrilla warfare. The nature of Yemen's terrain is well known. They might fight for years and the cycle of revenge could go on for a long time. You will reach Aden, and then what? This war will not ensure unity. I also told them: War means occupation at a time when you are one state. War means a call for secession. Entry into Aden would mean occupation, and peoples would view it as occupation, and not unity. I cautioned them and then there were rumors that Egypt would send forces. We are not prepared to send a single soldier to Yemen, whether for peacekeeping or for any other purposes. Our forces would be dispatched if there were differences among states and when we see that the public interest calls for sending peacekeeping forces. This is an internal problem there, why send peacekeeping forces? To fight whom? I am not prepared to lose anyone in an improper operation.

They assure me that the question will be settled. However, to tell you the truth, I do not see any hope. I am not biased toward one side or the other. I am for peace and stability. We are for unity. However, the use of force will never achieve unity. It will create revenge operations. Is this part of the public interest? The state of affairs in the Arab world is truly strange. One country swallows up another; two people unite and then strike each other. All of these are aftereffects of the Gulf war. It is regrettable and sad. I hope they will reach a solution, even though I doubt it.

[Al-Shubashi] In light of the deterioration in the Arab situation, how much have you accomplished in your efforts to close Arab ranks so as to bypass the serious effects of the crisis resulting from the Gulf war, and do you believe that these efforts are achieving progress? Are the Gulf states responding to your efforts in this regard? In other words, will Iraq be kept frozen or are there signs of ending the siege imposed on Iraq and bringing it back to the international community?

[Mubarak] There are two points here: Closing Arab ranks and the stand on Iraq.

With regard to closing Arab ranks, you should not forget that the occupation of Kuwait and the expulsion of the Kuwaitis were a very serious matter, particularly since information indicated that they would not have just stopped there and that the situation would have developed until it affected the entire Gulf region. I did not create this information, reliable sources have leaked it in many places. Imagine what would happen if a person was expelled from his house, had his belongings seized, and was then thrown into the street. It is impossible to achieve reconciliation between the two parties in one or two years. We are human beings. This is what happened in Kuwait. The Gulf states were also scared because after taking Kuwait nobody knew where his ambitions would take him. He caused chaos. Closing Arab ranks will take long time, because the Kuwait war caused deep wounds. I am discussing the matter with our brothers. You saw Abu-'Ammar meeting with the custodian of the two holy mosques [Saudi Arabian King Fahd]. I spoke with the custodian of the two holy mosques and with the Gulf states. The situation with Jordan is slightly better now, but this needs time. Many countries, which had been helping King Husayn, feel bitter over what happened. They believe that King Husayn had a role in what happened. But we are trying to clear the air, and the situation today is better than it was two years ago. The matter, however, will take more time. And the Yemeni issue has emerged now.

Regarding the issue of Iraq, we are against the partitioning of Iraq. There are the northern, southern, and central parts now. We sympathize with the Iraqi people. But the international community and the Security Council insist on this. It is difficult to convince the international community, because they would say that the Iraqi president, who was responsible for this, is still in power.

We are opposed to the removal of a head of state through the intervention of foreign powers. The people are the ones who should decide whether or not a president should stay in power. We can never accept a foreign power removing a head of state. I have spoken to certain countries about this issue. Let the people, not any foreign power, decide.

Lifting the blockade on Iraq is not an easy process and requires more time. I hope the people of Iraq will have a chance to live. I greatly sympathize with the Iraqi people.

[Al-Shubashi] Your Excellency the President, the pioneering democratic experiment in Egypt is in the spotlight as it is an example to be followed in the region. Will the terrorist practices that are aimed at aborting the democratic march followed by Egypt under your leadership affect this march?

[Mubarak] Nobody can alter the democratic march. If it could be changed those terrorist elements and those behind them would have achieved something. We are keen on democracy and freedom. We tried all... [sentence incomplete as heard]. There has never been freedom like that which exists in Egypt now, not even under the monarchy, and not before or after. I am fully convinced that what we are doing will not arrest this pluralism and democracy. What we are doing is in line

with the Constitution and the law. I do not like to violate them at all, because I am establishing bases for the future. If another person were in my place he might become nervous about all these practices and abort this democracy. But, if we did this, we would enter again into a vicious circle. I am against this. I support liberties. You notice that some papers here never stop... [sentence incomplete as heard]. Yesterday, they told me that a paper is calling for confusion. I want the Egyptian people to learn, to know right from wrong, and to discern good from bad. How can our nations learn? If I put an end to this process people will ask in case of any problem: Where is the government? Where is the government?

In the past, when any official was criticized—and this happened when I first assumed office—the official would come to me and tell me: Mr. President, they say this and that about me. But I am not the target. Rather, it is the regime. I would answer: Brother, may God damn this regime if it is unable to defend itself. Do you want the president to reply to every writer who attacks the regime for a mistake? No, every member of the regime who works properly must take criticism and reply if this criticism is not correct. Reply to it. We are concerned about democracy and freedoms.

[Al-Shubashi] Mr. President, before you won another term as president, you stressed your concern for the problems of low-income employees and you stressed the need to quickly improve social conditions so as to deepen political and economic stability and stem the roots of terrorism. To what extent is the state following the opinion and studies of experts in all fields regarding the problems of unemployment, poor regions, education, and other questions?

[Mubarak] I want to tell you one thing. When I assumed office in October 1981, I was not aware of the circumstances. I started to make studies to see how the situation was in general. I found that after the wars, if we were to continue that way, there would be no infrastructure. In Cairo schools you would see students wearing boots and wading in water. There was no water in homes; there was no electricity. If you took the Alexandria train, it would take you five hours and the train would break down. There were no roads, no telephones, nothing at all. The population was increasing. And if you want investment without solid infrastructure, no one will come. I saw many investors who came here to do business. When they wanted to call their company abroad to make a study, they would find the telephone dead. If the telephone was working, the operator would say to wait for a week or five days until you get a line. So Egyptian and non-Egyptian investors came here and found out there was nothing to be done. I saw these things. So I called an economic conference in March 1982, I think. I brought all the economists of the country together. We came up with a plan, which we have been following up until today. We introduced amendments to the plan from time to time. The country needs billions for the infrastructure. If I want to construct a building, I must have strong foundations. If I want to build a country, I must have strong foundations: water, sewage systems, telephones, electricity, etc. This is because no investors will come if there is no electricity; no investor will come if he cannot make a telephone call to order spare parts through DHL or via any other means quickly; no investor will come knowing there is no means of transportation; no investor will come when there are no industrial zones for him to build. So we started from the basic infrastructure. We did not have enough money. We barely eked out a living. So what could we do? Are we to leave the country this way, or is it better to get loans to build the infrastructure so the country can revive and then repay the money when our situation improves? We started with the infrastructure. We set priorities: water, electricity, and telephones. Some people would say: But, Mr. President, why don't you work on one project and finish it? Such as water. But if we do this, does the water not need drainage systems? What about electricity? This is an integral process. We started with the basic infrastructure for several years. The problem of the poor regions has existed since the sixties, or even before that. We have always had low-income people and poor people. The world is full of them. You have them in France, the United States, Britain. Name one country that does not have poor people. Unemployment? Name one country that does not have unemployment. All of this is the result of advanced technology and such things. We are not any different. We have covered a considerable distance in the infrastructure. When I assumed office, we had half a million telephone lines, including 300,000 lines that were not working. As for the 200,000 lines that were working, I had to lift the receiver and place it next to me and drink tea waiting for the dial tone just to make a quick call. If I reached a wrong number, then I had to place the receiver back to wait for the tone. So it was better and quicker for a person who wanted to speak with a friend on the telephone to go on foot and see his friend and come back.

Today, we have 3 million telephone lines. In the past, if you wanted to speak with another country for any reason, you could not. Today, you can talk to Japan, the United States, and any other country in the world from any telephone. So we now have 3 million lines, compared to the half million lines we had from time the telephone was introduced to Egypt.

The same thing goes for water and electricity. We had 4,700 megawatts of electricity. Electricity used to go off, and during examinations, the people would get angry because there was no electricity and they could not get a lamp. Today, we have 14,000 megawatts. Electricity production when I first assumed office in late 1981 was 18 billion kilowatts; today, we have 75 billion kilowatts. In December, it will become 80 billion kilowatts.

In 1952, the Egyptian citizen used around 50 kilowatts; in 1970, I think, 400 kilowatts; today, the individual uses 1,000 kilowatts. Do you see the difference? The Shubra al-Khaymah power station alone cost us 3.3 billion pounds. No power station costs less than 2.5 billion pounds. These are huge stations. That one cost us a lot.

Then, we faced some crises. There was no hard currency; the price of oil was going down; we were not exporting a lot because there weren't many industries. All of this created problems. God made things easier for us. Half of the debts are gone. Things started to improve. We then started looking at our priorities. The poor regions. I could not have done anything in the past because I had no money. Where can we get the money? Are we to get money out of nowhere? So I had my priorities: water, roads, and new cities for the industries and agriculture, so the people can get on with their life. But if I had huge financial resources, we would have addressed all problems. Take unemployment. It exists everywhere in the world. And we have also had unemployment throughout history. Increases in the population also contributes to unemployment. But if I have the figures I would tell you that over the past few years, we managed to find jobs for over 2 million people. And we are finding other jobs, despite the difficulties involved and the modern technologies that reduce the number of necessary workers. We are doing our best here. We have new cities that have many industries. We have 13 more new cities than in 1981. They include 6 Uktubar; 10 Ramadan; al-Nubariyah; an agricultural community; al-Salhiya, an agricultural community; Burj al-'Arab, agricultural-industrial; al-Sadat, agricultural-industrial community; the Bani-Suwayf. We have many huge complexes. We have 13 new complexes. Houses and factories have been built in these complexes. There are around 100 factories in 10 Ramadan Complex. These factories provide job opportunities for many people and provide housing for many people. We are doing our best within our means to provide jobs. But we have a burden. The Egyptians do not want to work in the private sector. In the past, the private sector did not pay the people steady salaries. They would just give you a bonus and tell you good bye. Today, there is security if you work in the private sector, as well as in the government. But in our case, part of the unemployed work in the private sector. Despite this, they apply for a job with the government. I once asked a graduate who had been working for two or three months: My son, how much do they pay you? He gets 280 pounds and a bonus and other allowances. He then told me: Mr. President, I have applied for a job with the government. I told him: The government will appoint you in al-Jizah, al-Fayyum, or some other place. He said: I want to speak to Your Excellency, maybe a member of the People's Assembly would get me a transfer. I told him: Do you expect all the people to be appointed in the same place? You get a good salary. He wants to stay in the private sector and to work with the government and get all the benefits. I met an engineer once who visited me at home a few years ago. He told me: Mr. President, my salary is not enough. I asked him: Where do you work? He said: I work at an engineering office with the government in a certain governorate. I asked him: My son, do you go to work? He said: We are 10 in the office and we have an agreement between us, so I go two or three days in the week. He said my salary is not enough for me to eat in the club. I asked him: What club? He said: Well, the days on which I do not go to work, I stay in the club and the lunch is not enough.

I told him: My son, why don't you find another job in the afternoon. I gave him the following example. An engineer once came to me to build [word indistinct] air base at the airport. The engineer works in the private sector in the morning and at an engineering office in the afternoon. He was still young. He told me that he would fix the [word indistinct] better than any other engineer. I told him: Sure. Here is a tender. I asked them to give the tender to him and to help him. The young man worked hard and earned a good amount of money. He was happy, and I was happy for him. Another does not want to go back to Egypt and works at an engineering office. But this engineer works in the morning and in the afternoon. He earned around 2,000-3,000 pounds in two or three years. He worked hard from morning to evening.

So the question of unemployment, no country can solve this problem overnight. The French prime minister said in an interview: Don't think that unemployment will end overnight. It needs years. You can't push a button and create jobs. If you take the government jobs, there are many problems: salaries and bonuses. You look at the state budget, you find that half of it is salaries. Employees who do not do anything complain that bonuses are getting smaller. This is because you cannot distribute all the money.

Someone will tell you: I am facing hardship; the salary is not enough. Okay. The government is facing a hard time, and he also wants to get a job with the government. But where do we get you a salary or office? We will not find chairs for them to sit on. Some people tell you: I do not find an office for me. Everybody wants an office and a chair to obstruct the people's formalities. When someone visits him, he will be too busy talking on the telephone and telling the people to come tomorrow or after tomorrow. You know this familiar stuff. All this is because of the huge number of workers. we have a huge number of employees and this burdens the economy because these employees are not productive. However, those who work at the factories are productive and the country depends on those people.

If someone says: I can solve the problem of unemployment overnight, we will tell him that this is impossible. The population is increasing. In all my interviews and meetings, I warn of the danger of this increase. Maybe we are coping with this increase now. However, in the long run, the country will suffer on account of the increase of its population. You will not find jobs and we will run into trouble. So regarding the question of unemployment, we have always had this problem.

Also, the poor regions have existed since 1924. In the 1960's and 1970's, they increased. But I have no resources to build better homes and provide services. When I have 100 pounds and have many problems, I

have to set my priorities. We are trying to solve the question of unemployment and the question of education and many other issues.

As for low-income people, it is our job to help those people. When someone has a factory and earns money, we start attacking this man because he has money and has a nice car. We tell them that the one who has money and has a Mercedes or another fancy car, this man is helping his country because he is investing his money here and hiring people and we must encourage him. Since he earns a good sum of money, he wants to have a decent living. Otherwise, he will leave this country and go somewhere else. So, let him have a Mercedes 1000. Why not? He pays duty of more than 1 or 2 million pounds. This money goes to the state budget for the low-income people. Let him buy 10 cars. This way, we will have 20 million pounds for the low-income people.

I encourage the rich people who invest their money in the interest of the people, not those who become rich through illegal methods, such as drugs and corruption. I am against those all the way. We will never accept this. I encourage patriotic capitalists who invest their money and create jobs for people. Why do I give exemptions to the owners of private projects? I recently told them that anyone who starts a project worth 10 million pounds will be exempted from taxes. Why? Because he will create jobs for 10, 15, or 20 families. This is better than taking taxes without solving the problem. If you employ 10 or 50 people, you will support 10 or 50 families.

Solving problems will take time. I have great piles of problems. Praise be to God, one shouldered all this heavy burden and solved many problems. Now, we are in a better situation. There are endless problems.

[Al-Shubashi] Mr. President, you spoke about your direct contact with the masses and their problems. You noted the problems facing bureaucracy in the government. Many intellectuals speak about corruption as one of the major causes of frustration and its detrimental effects. Meanwhile, the government reiterates its endeavor to combat corruption regardless of posts because everyone is equal before the law. Have the people felt this in a performance that reflects the government's policy aimed at confronting corruption?

[Mubarak] I would like to tell you something. Corruption exists among human beings wherever they are. Egypt is one of the countries that suffers the least from corruption. There is not a single crime of corruption that the state has not monitored or followed. I wish that those who are talking about corruption would reform themselves first. Some people talk loudly about corruption in order to cover up their own corruption. I do not want to mention names. We are one of the cleanest countries. The baser self of man incites to evil. Name one country where there are only angels. Freedom and democracy allow the press to write about corruption. However, this is not the case. Did corruption not exist in the past? There was corruption in the past, but nobody dared to open his mouth. Corruption exists, but we are the ones who reveal it before public opinion and send people to court. The important thing is that the government does not cover up any case. We speak about corruption a great deal because there is nothing to talk about. If you know about a corruption case inform the competent authorities about it. The court will look into such cases, and we do not intervene in the work of judiciary. We have never asked the public prosecutor to cancel any corruption case. Some people are acquitted by the court and others are found guilty. It does not matter whether those involved are relatives or friends of the president, or a minister, or official. This is the principle.

[Al-Shubashi] The administrative apparatus, Mr. President?

[Mubarak] When there are many officials in the government there will be many problems. Name me one country in the world where there is no bureaucracy. The public money makes people act like this. Those in charge know that they are held accountable. But the owner of a sum money is not scared because it is his money. A government employee will tell a citizen to come the next day because he is afraid of signing a document. This is one of the reasons. The government employees are too many therefore there are complications. When I was a vice president, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter told me that your bureaucracy has been delaying the implementation of a deal to buy buses for six months. I told him: Mr. President, we turned over the documents to you three months ago. You also have bureaucracy like ours, and maybe more. He said: Maybe. [preceding word in English] I told him: Not maybe. [preceding word in English] The documents were turned over to you three months ago. There is bureaucracy in any government in the world, because public money is involved. When private money is involved the situation is different. I confirm that Egypt is one of the cleanest countries in terms of corruption.

[Al-Shubashi] Some of the decisions made by low-level local leaders favor extremism by submitting to the demands of extremists in an effort to strike a balance between the government and tne extremists. What is the stand of the higher leadership toward these leaders?

[Mubarak] This might happen occasionally, but it is not a phenomenon. Praise be to God, people are well aware of what is happening, they know what is good and bad.

[Al-Shubashi translates into Arabic a question in French from the director of Radio Monte Carlo] Your Excellency the President, Radio Monte Carlo is a French station. Therefore, we are interested in knowing the state of diplomatic relations between Egypt and France. In another development, President Mitterrand yesterday celebrated the passage of 13 years since he assumed power. Do you want to address a message on this occasion?

[Mubarak] Our relations with France are excellent. I visited France for this first time in September 1974 when

I was the commander of the Air Force. In the past, we were sent to the East. That was my first visit to London and Paris. Since then, I have wished everything good for France. I visited France in June 1975 when I was the vice president. I was one of those who always worked to strengthen relations with France as it is a leading European country. I have also visited France many times since and I, sometimes, reconciled issues between President d'Estaing and President al-Sadat when they differed. I spoke frankly with President d'Estaing, who always accepted what I said because I sought good relations with France. There is continuous cooperation with France in many fields. France has been our partner in a subway project and in many industries. We have the best relations with France. It supports us in international bodies, such as the IMF and the World Bank. President Francois Mitterrand, Jacques Chirac, and the French brothers are good supporters in this regard.

On this occasion, I greet President Mitterrand as a friend. When I was vice president, I visited President Mitterrand when he was elected as president in 1981. My visit to France coincided with a visit by the head of an Arab state. Mitterrand changed the time of the meeting so as to meet me before the head of an Arab state. Before this, I met him here in Cairo when he was a party leader. Since then, I can say that our relations have been good. I am very frank, and he can be trusted. Since then, our relations have been good. My relations with Jacque Chirac and Giscard d'Estaing are excellent. In fact, my relations with the French leaders are very good, because they are frank and clear. I greet President Mitterrand on the 13th anniversary of his assumption of power. He is one of the greatest politicians I have ever met.

[Al-Shubashi] It is known that you listen to local and world radios. What is the share of Radio Monte Carlo in this?

[Mubarak] When I was vice president, I wanted to make some remarks on Radio Monte Carlo. There were some incomplete news reports broadcast that would cause harm. I regretted this because relations with France were good. I did not mean that the news on Egypt should be inaccurate. I support true news. However, after contacting our brothers in Radio Monte Carlo, they understood the situation and broadcast unbiased facts. It is one of the stations that I always listen to and its news is very balanced. This does not mean that it aims at appeasing Egypt. It broadcasts true news. Some stations broadcast incomplete reports, thereby giving the wrong information. I believe Radio Monte Carlo does no do this.

[Al-Shubashi] Your Excellency the President, thank you for this testimony of which we are proud. Thank you for giving us this long time. We hope we will meet Your Excellency again.

[Mubarak] Thank you.

Mubarak Statement on Yemen, Gaza-Jericho

NC1605061494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 15 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has renewed his call to Yemeni leaders to stop the fighting and resort to dialogue, stressing that war solves nothing.

In a statement to be published in the 16 May issue of the newspaper MAYU, President Mubarak said: Stop the fighting. War terminates unity; it does not preserve it. The Yemeni people are paying the price with their own blood and their vital installations, which are being destroyed. War will solve no problem anywhere, even if one side triumphs over another. The basis is always dialogue.

He added: We have always advised them not to resort to military force. We said unity must be achieved with the consent of the people.

Regarding the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, President Mubarak said: The Palestinian people are happy with this agreement. We are also happy to see that our Palestinian brothers have begun to restore their land and return to it in accordance with this agreement, which was the result of long and exhausting talks.

Referring to the crisis that occurred during the signing ceremony for the agreement in Cairo on 4 May, Mubarak said: What happened on the day of the signing of the agreement in Cairo—the dispute over the maps, their not being signed, and then our return to the stage after bridging the gaps—is the most eloquent proof of the efforts we all exerted and the strenuous talks that ended with the signing of the agreement.

Musa on Peace Talks, Yemen Crisis

NC1305193094 London MBC Television in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 May 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Nasir Farghali in London; date not given; from the "Face to Face" program—recorded]

[Text] [Farghali] The incident that is still on the minds of the Arab public since all of us watched the signing of the Cairo agreement on 4 May took place on the stage of the Conference Hall in Cairo. Can you tell us what happened, since you were a principal player in it?

[Musa] We were not involved in what happened on the day of the signing. It was between Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and Yitzhaq Rabin. It concerned clarification about some matters related to the maps of Jericho and Gaza, specifically Jericho. The size agreed on was not final. In other words, the agreement on it was not as it had been decided on early that morning after a long night of discussions that continued in President Mubarak's office until 0300. We agreed that there would be a letter

recording that the size was not final and that negotiations would continue to define the size of the Jericho area. That letter was not appended to the map. Abu-'Ammar hesitated when he was about to sign until he saw the letter and then he signed.

[Farghali] Coincidentally, I was covering the event for MBC on that day. We all saw Abu-'Ammar write something down.

[Musa] He was referring to the letter.

[Farghali] What happened when you withdrew from the stage for some minutes?

[Musa] Abu-'Ammar wanted to see the letter. President Mubarak also wanted to see it. We wanted to be sure that the letter existed. When we ascertained this, Abu-'Ammar returned to sign. It was not a question of whether Abu-'Ammar wanted to sign or not. We wanted to see the letter. The discussions ended at 0300 and we were all tired and could have missed something. This is why we all wanted to be sure before Abu-'Ammar signed. When I say we all, I mean Palestine and Egypt. We wanted to be sure that this letter existed.

[Farghali] Among the Palestinians there are reservations about and fears from the peace process and from what is happening on the Palestinian-Israeli track. I believe that Egypt has a major responsibility here because it has been its fate to play this great role.

[Musa] The fears will remain. We understand this because we, too, had some fears during the Camp David talks. We asked ourselves: Will the Israeli side fulfill its commitments? Will the issue end as we want? Will we retrieve all the territories when there are talks about stages? The important thing is how Abu-'Ammar and the Palestinians manage their own affairs and tackle the problems that will arise. There will be many problems, but there is no other way. The issue now is the quick retrieval of the land. The problem of Israeli settlements will become less the quicker we are in retrieving the land. Had the Palestinian side worked with us when we were having the Camp David negotiations with Israel, it would have most certainly reached a better agreement. Why? Because the number of settlements and settlers was much less then. Instead of dealing with 120,000 settlers, the Palestinian side would have dealt with 8,000 settlers and with 10 or a small number of settlements instead of 180. That exacerbated the situation. The more we waited, the more Palestinian lands were lost. The Palestinians have now started on the right track, namely that of obtaining the land and starting to build an entity and a Palestinian authority with its own identity and a large measure of independence. Of course, all of us on the Arab side should realize that the Oslo agreement on Gaza and Jericho first—which was signed in Washington and on which negotiations continued until its document of implementation was signed in Cairo—is the first step. The Palestinian state has not been established. The right to self-determination has not been exercised yet. The Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories has not been done yet. Self-rule in all the occupied territories has not been achieved yet. These are the facts and there is no need for oneupmanship or criticism. Why? Because we, and specifically the Palestinians, are not starting from zero but from below zero. For the Palestinians, what is needed are not slogans, shouts, or oneupmanship. Whoever has more to give than Abu-'Ammar, let him come forward and show us. Let him say: I can bring you such and such things. I say very frankly that we believe that criticism for its own sake and hoping that the 21st or 22nd Century might bring a solution are shallow words. Do what you can do. Take your land. Achieve the first Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian territories occupied after 1967. The more we stay without improving the situation, the more lands are lost. Oneupmanship and too much talk do not bring any results.

[Farghali] We opened this subject because, as you know, many people do not have the full picture. You certainly clarified some very important matters for us. It is being said, for instance, that the Egyptian leadership is putting pressure on Abu-'Ammar personally to sign....

[Musa, interrupting] There is absolutely no Egyptian pressure. We fully realize the delicate nature of this stage as well as Arab sensitivities. What Egypt is doing is to help the Palestinians, as I have already told you. Take the example you mentioned regarding the signing ceremony on the stage. President Mubarak's concern, like that of president 'Arafat, was to be sure that a letter really existed. So there was no reproach or blame on our part. Our feeling was: Well, he is right. Let him be sure about every point before he signs. The Palestinian side is the weak side in the negotiations, because as I told you they started from below zero. The Israeli side is stronger because it has the land, the power, and several international circles backing it. The Egyptian role sought to give adequate strength to the Palestinians to be stronger against the Israelis. There were several points that on many occasions we said we could not accept and would reject, even if the Palestinians accepted them. Why? Because there are certain issues that we can never waive. We support the Palestinians in regaining their land. We do not push the Palestinians to make a specific decision. Absolutely not. The decision rests with Abu-'Ammar, the PLO Central Committee, and the Palestinian leadership. If they ask for our opinion, we give it to them, and it is not binding. If our assistance is requested, we assist. If we are not asked to give our opinion or if our assistance is not requested, we do not interfere.

[Farghali] In view of the current Palestinian circumstances you have mentioned, the Egyptian role becomes inevitable. However, things are different on the Syrian track. What is the nature of or prospects for the Egyptian role along that track?

[Musa] As you said, The Syrian issue or track is different. This is because there are more markers on this track than on the Palestinian track. For instance, there are Syrian international borders that can never be ignored. The

same applies to Lebanon, which is a separate track. The Egyptian role here proceeds from the same policy and philosophy governing the subject. If our help is requested, we are ready to give it. If our opinion is sought, we are ready to give it. But Egypt does not volunteer to get involved in any of the Arab-Israeli negotiations unless the parties themselves ask us to help.

[Farghali] You will give a lecture here in London on the Middle East and regional policies. Many people wonder what is really being negotiated on the Syrian track. As you have stated, the international borders are known and there are several signals from Israel that the Golan will be returned to Syria. The problem of the settlements on the Golan is not as complicated as it is in other occupied Arab territories. But some say that the negotiations are actually about the situation in that area after a certain Israeli-Syrian settlement is reached. Is this true?

[Musa] No, it is not. What is happening is negotiations about the withdrawal, the future relations between Syria and Israel, and the security measures. That is all.

[Farghali] Do you foresee progress on the Israeli-Lebanese track?

[Musa] The Israeli-Lebanese track is very clear. Even under the Likud government the former prime minister declared that Israel has no territorial designs on Lebanon. Moreover, UN Security Council Resolution 425 is clear regarding the subject of withdrawal, in addition to other UN resolutions on the Middle East. The issue between Israel and Lebanon is not over territory but over how to achieve joint or mutual security and avert military clashes in southern Lebanon. There are certain political conditions in the region that link the Lebanese track to the Syrian track. However, it is clear to all that the Lebanese track is independent in all its aspects.

[Farghali] Another crisis has surfaced recently, namely the Yemeni crisis. You have repeatedly explained Egypt's stance on this situation. Egypt has always had a historic role in Yemen. How is Egypt dealing with the current crisis?

[Musa] Our efforts are based on mediation and calming matters between the two sides. Yesterday President Mubarak received the Yemeni foreign minister. Before that he received envoys from the two sides in Yemen. We want to make it clear that the current military operations between the south and the north have opened the gates of hell. In other words, matters will not end well. Unity must be based on dialogue. Up to this moment the two sides have not spoken about secession. Unity must be maintained. Even if there are differences, there are ways to settle them. This is what we are trying to explain. An Egyptian envoy went to Yemen and stayed several days there to study the situation and attempt to calm matters. Many efforts were intended to support the unity but resulted in supporting a clash between the two sides and in the loss of confidence between many officials in the north and the south. All this has made the situation in Yemen very serious, which requires constant and effective intervention. This is what we are doing as best we can. That is why we asked for a meeting of the Arab League. We said the Arab League should not remain indifferent to this dispute. We said the subject must be discussed by the Arab League. The subject was discussed by the Arab League; the meeting has been suspended but has not ended. The problem in Yemen will affect the Arab world from both a geographic and a political point of view. The final say is for the Yemeni people. It is not for us or for anyone else to impose unity or secession. They united, they must preserve this unity. Anything that deepens the secession, causes bloodshed, and creates loss of confidence is a bad indication for Yemen and the Yemenis. We hope they will succeed in establishing a quick dialogue and in turning this page that has spawned clashes, bloodshed, and martyrs on both sides. This is one country. They are, after all, Arabs. No side can claim victory over the other side because this is not victory. Ultimately, matters will not end like this.

[Farghali] It is said that Egypt wanted to dispatch forces to help disengage the warring forces in Yemen.

[Musa] No, no. This is not true. What happened is that one of the ideas proposed was that if there was any need for Arab, not Egyptian, peacekeeping forces the matter could have been considered by the Arab League. But the issue depends on Arab League approval and the acceptance of Yemen. However, the current circumstances are not suitable for that.

[Farghali] Egyptian troops have taken part in the UN missions in Somalia and Bosnia. Do you think this role will be promoted, particularly since the United Nations is headed by Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali? Will this role expand. How does the Egyptian leadership view this role?

[Musa] This is all contingent on the UN Security Council's resolutions and not on the secretary general or his nationality. It depends on two matters. If the Security Council decides to send UN troops to disputed areas, it will contact many countries, and perhaps all countries. The Security Council will ask them: Do you wish to participate in this work? It also depends on the state's decision whether to participate.

We participated in Mozambique, Western Sahara, Burundi, Somalia, Bosnia, and Cambodia. We did not only send troops but observers. Some of our involvement was done on the request from the United Nations and the appeal from the Organization of African Unity. Our decision to participate in the peacekeeping process was basically made for African considerations. However, there are two factors governing the participation of troops. There is the UN Security Council decision to establish a peacekeeping process in certain areas. This is usually followed by UN contacts with all the member states to ask whether they wish to participate in this process. It is also our decision whether to participate or not. We refused to participate in certain areas. We did participate in Somalia and Bosnia because

these are extremely important issues. We decided to do so because this was incumbent upon us to participate in sending troops.

[Farghali] Western countries are facing problems in providing troops that are requested by the United Nations to implement its resolutions. Sending U.S. troops to Bosnia might take time and require negotiations. Perhaps this issue will never be solved. It seems that the Egyptian participation is almost guaranteed and will be relied upon by the UN secretary general.

[Musa] The Egyptian participation is more relied upon than guaranteed. This is because the issue depends on the Security Council decision and the decision of the state whether to send troops. As I said, we focus on Africa more than any other place. But the issue of Bosnia is important as far as we are concerned. Hence, the Egyptian force was sent right from the start. But there are other countries that have troops in Bosnia and other places. Turkey, for example, has troops in Bosnia and other areas as well. There are also small countries that participate in peacekeeping processes. We will participate and we will help Butrus-Butrus Ghali in this matter. We will help and will continue to participate in the peacekeeping process.

[Farghali] What about the Egyptian moves concerning ties with the Arab Gulf states and the security strategy in the region within the context of the new world order? What is the nature of the Egyptian moves?

[Musa] The pan-Arab security issue is under discussion. I prefer not to elaborate on it now because it is a complex issue linked with many political circumstances and developments in the region. Therefore, talking about this issue in a minute or two would harm it. Please accept my apology. However, I would like to tell you that this issue is extremely important and was included in the Arab League agenda on Egypt's request in September 1991.

[Farghali] Thank you, Your Excellency.

[Musa] You are welcome.

Musa on Peace, Bosnia, Foreign Relations

NC1305210194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] London, 13 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa emphasized Egypt's deep interest in the need to reach a just solution to the Bosnian problem. He called for lifting the weapons embargo to Bosnia and denounced the behavior of the forces that have been dealing with this problem but have not been serious about finding a solution to it. He described the crisis as a bad omen for the international community.

In a lecture he delivered today before the Royal British Institute for Foreign Affairs (Chatham House), Musa said that more complicated problems will arise in Central and Eastern Europe if no solution is found to the Bosnian problem. He criticized the international community's behavior on this issue and condemned racial and sectarian discrimination in Bosnia.

'Amr Musa reiterated Egypt's stance, which calls for lifting the embargo on weapons to Bosnia, noting that the Serbs are getting weapons from Belgrade. He said that Egypt is ready to provide troops within the framework of a relevant UN resolution. He added: We in Egypt feel disappointed with the contradictory actions of the international community in Bosnia. He stressed the need to respect human rights there, adding that what is happening in Bosnia is a test for the new world order.

In his lecture, which was attended by a number of Arab ambassadors, the British ambassador in Egypt, and a number of Middle East experts, the foreign minister referred to his visit to South Africa. He said that South Africa is now in the stage of change and that the nineties are important to all of us. He added: The change taking place now has positive and negative aspects. A new stage has also started in the Middle East following the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. He said: We are seeking to achieve a permanent settlement based on guaranteeing the inalienable and political rights of everyone in the region and are looking toward the post-settlement stage to achieve development and prosperity. He noted that the achievement of these objectives will come through cooperation between all countries of the region.

Musa added that Egypt will continue its efforts to give impetus to the peace process in the region, achieve peaceful coexistence between all parties, and reach a just solution that guarantees all the political rights of the parties involved. He emphasized that the stage following the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will require more efforts, especially as there are still obstacles to peace.

He explained that Egypt is seeking to achieve an Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, guarantee security for all countries, and establish peaceful and normal relations with Israel. He said: If all this is done, then the Middle East region will be completely different.

The foreign minister said: Egypt has proposed the establishment of a forum for the Mediterranean basin countries to achieve cooperation between them and ensure that the Middle East region will be completely free from weapons of mass destruction on condition that all countries, including Israel, comply. Then the economic growth desired by all countries in the region will be achieved and the area will benefit from the available resources and thus ensure a better future for their peoples.

'Amr Musa, who is currently paying a visit to Britain, went on to say that Egypt's objective is to ensure that the Middle East is not isolated from the world but is interacting with its peoples. He said: While the region is now preoccupied with the peace process, it is also looking toward ending all the problems surrounding it, such as the one in Bosnia. He stressed that the situation in Bosnia does not differ much from the former state of the Cold War. He added: The threat to peace in Bosnia and the Balkans also is a threat to the

Middle East and the Mediterranean basin. We must open the doors for interaction between the cultures of Europe, the Arab region, and the Mediterranean basin. He said: We do not want to go back to the Cold War era with all its challenges, hatreds, and confrontations.

Musa noted that Egypt is interested in solving the problems in Yemen, Sudan, and Iraq because his country is part of the region, knows its responsibilities regarding these problems, and earnestly seeks to achieve stability in the area. He pointed out that as far as Yemen is concerned, Egypt seeks to contain the current differences and crisis there.

Referring to the British policy, which he said he noted in his current talks with senior British officials, Musa said that Britain also wants to help achieve stability in the Middle East. He also noted that Egypt is interested in steering the Israeli-Palestinian talks in the right direction to achieve the desired objectives. He pointed out that the confidence-building process between the Arabs and Israel has already started but it requires time. It also must come from both sides, not just from the Arabs. Israel must work in that direction, too, he added.

Musa stressed that the peace process in the region is still just beginning, since the negotiations between Israel and Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon still remain. He noted that the Arab boycott of Israel will be lifted, but at the appropriate time.

Musa noted that Egypt is concerned about the developments in Algeria. He hoped that stability will be achieved in Algeria, adding that the Algerian people are capable of establishing stability. He noted that what is happening in Algeria does not worry Egypt alone but all the countries in the region, the Arab and Islamic worlds, and Europe. He urged helping Algeria emerge from its current crisis.

Turning to Egyptian-Sudanese relations, Musa noted that there is a difference between the two governments over the two countries' policies. He stressed that Egypt does not accept the partitioning of Sudan.

On relations with Iran, Musa said that Egypt is concerned with security in the Gulf and the need to prevent attempts to export the Iranian revolution to other countries in the region. He added: With the exception of these points, there is no political antagonism between us and Iran. He called for Iran to change the policies it follows regarding the Arab region.

Concerning the issue of Jerusalem, Musa said that it will be part of the negotiations to be held at a later stage between Israel and the Palestinians. He added: There is no reason to object to the principle of negotiations over Jerusalem or dividing it. The whole issue, he added, is negotiable between the Palestinians and Israelis. He stressed that Jerusalem will remain one city [madinah wahidah] and its status will be discussed at a later stage in the negotiations.

Regarding the question of Iraq, Musa said that this issue is very complicated. He added: There is only one key to the crisis with Kuwait, namely, that Iraq recognizes Kuwait and that the UN Security Council resolutions on this subject be implemented. He stressed that Egypt does not accept the partitioning of Iraq or anything that may jeopardize its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Concerning the situation in Lebanon, Musa said that things are improving there and that the Lebanese Government is extending its authority over Lebanese territory. He stressed that Egypt is concerned with Lebanon's sovereignty and stability.

Regarding Lebanese-Syrian negotiations, Musa said that there is a framework for negotiations and there are Security Council Resolutions 242 and 425. He hoped that stability will be restored in Lebanon and that the country will return its former stability.

Gunmen Kill Soldiers, Policeman in Asyut

Three Security Men Fatally Shot

NC1305132994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Asyut, 13 May (MENA)—Unidentified gunmen shot and killed a noncommissioned officer, 'Abd-al-Muhsin 'Utayfi, today in the village of al-Nukhaylah in the Abu-Tij District of Asyut Governorate.

A security source at the Interior Ministry said that at around 0845 today and while the noncommissioned officer was leaving for his office in the Sidfa District, unidentified men opened fire at him, killing him instantly. Commanders of the Asyut Security Directorate and officers from the Criminal Investigation Department inspected the scene of the shooting. The security service is continuing the investigations to capture the criminals. The prosecution has been informed.

Unidentified gunmen today shot and killed two soldiers while guarding the police post in al-'Iqal al-Qibli in the al-Badari District of the Asyut Governorate. Another member of the guard force was wounded in the shooting.

A security source at the Interior Ministry said the martyrs are Yusuf Mahmud Musa and 'Abd-al-Nasir Mubarak and named the wounded soldier as Khalf 'Atif Sa'd. Commanders of the Asyut Security Department and officers from the Criminal Investigation Department inspected the scene. The area is being combed for the criminals. The al-Badari prosecution has started investigations into the incident.

Policeman Killed En Route to Work

NC1505102594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0958 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 15 May (MENA)—Muhammad Ahmad Juwayd, a police driver from the al-Ghanayim District police force in the Asyut Governorate in Upper Egypt,

was killed today when unidentified gunmen fired at him as he was driving to work. A responsible security source in the Interior Ministry said that the policeman succumbed to his wounds and the culprits managed to flee. Commanders from the Asyut Security Directorate, various investigation agencies, and experts of the criminology laboratory went to the scene to investigate. The Prosecution Office has been notified to begin investigations.

Minister Says Situation Under Control

NC1505143894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has affirmed that security forces have succeeded in controlling the situation in the Governorate of Asyut in Upper Egypt. They have struck at the terrorist dens and captured the fugitive terrorists.

Al-Alfi said during his meeting today with a number of public security commanders and officers who have been transferred to work in the field of criminal investigations and political security in the governorate that the Interior Ministry is currently developing weapons and equipment and is providing training.

He clarified that the ministry is rebuilding its structures in the geographic regions of Upper Egypt. He noted that the ministry's current policy is to strengthen the confidence between the people and their executive leaders to isolate the outlaws and confront them.

During the meeting, the minister explained the current security policy. He also spoke about the mistakes they committed in the past, how they dealt with them in the security field, and how they learned about these mistakes.

Security Raids Net 'Terrorist' Leaders

NC1405161394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] An official security source at the Interior Ministry today said that within the activity of the State Intelligence Agency following the death of Tal'at Yasin Hammam, the general leader of the terrorist groups; in accordance with a plan to promote security operations; based on recent information gathered from organizational papers and terrorist operations; after an accurate watch of the terrorist groups at home and abroad; and in light of the results of intensive investigations security forces raided 11 hideouts at the same time in the Governorates of Cairo, al-Jizah, Ismailia, al- Daqahliyah, and al-Qalyubiyah.

Associates of terrorist Tal'at Yasin Hammam and leaders of the military wing were arrested in the raids. Seven modern cars of various types were seized. One of them was used in the assassination of martyr Major General Ra'uf Khayrat and in the attack against the officers of Abu Za'bal prison. Explosive, chemical, and incendiary materials were also seized along with some sketches of figures on the assassination list.

The investigations showed that two lawyers acted as contacts between terrorist leaders in Egypt and abroad. The State Prosecution Office is interrogating the suspects. Investigations are now under way to arrest seven remaining fugitive terrorists as well as some terrorists abroad. The Interior Ministry appeals to citizens with any information about the fugitive terrorists to contact the security services. The source said that the Interior Ministry in the next few days will announce the release of a number of prisoners who have repented and have renounced extremism and a departure from religion.

Saudi Arabia

Yemeni Oil Minister To Brief Officials on Crisis

EA1505173294 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Mr. Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, the minister of oil and mineral wealth, arrived in Riyadh last night in the framework of his tour of several Arab countries. Bin-Husaynun said in a statement upon his arrival, that he would inform the officials in Saudi Arabia on the details of the battles in Yemen and the eight-point initiative put forward by the politburo of the Yemeni Socialist Party to stop the fighting and resort to dialogue.

Yemen

Roundup of 13-16 May Clashes in North, South

Battles Rage for al-Dali', Kharaz

NC1305123794 Paris AFP in English 1117 GMT 13 May 94

[Excerpt] Sanaa, May 13 (AFP)—Rival Yemeni troops battled Friday for control of a key town north of Aden, as an Arab League team issued an urgent appeal for a ceasefire in the week-old civil war.

Northern troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and southern forces backing Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid were locked in a grim struggle for al-Dali', which lies near the former border between the old North and South Yemen.

The Sanaa authorities announced Thursday said the town had fallen, and a military spokesman said here Friday that "pockets of resistance" were being mopped up.

Northern reinforcements had been dispatched to al-Dali', which lies 90 kilometres (50 miles) north of Aden on a key road to a southern air base.

But military sources in Aden said southern troops had launched a counter-offensive and recaptured some positions around al-Dali'.

There was also another battle underway in the Kharaz region, 120 kilometres (75 miles) west of Aden.

The defence ministry in Sanaa said northern forces were advancing and had inflicted heavy losses on a rival armoured brigade.

But as the rival communiques continued to fly, southern commander Colonel 'Ali Qasim Talib said that the northern offensive through Kharaz had been beaten back and the region was controlled by al- Bid's men.

And as the fighting raged on, an Arab League mission was due to hold urgent talks with Salih.

Muhammad Bayraqdar, the league's military affairs chief, urged Yemen's leaders to "immediately halt" the fighting and open a dialogue, which they have so far refused to do.

He was to give the president a message to that effect from the League secretary-general, Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

Salih and his northern leadership decided to oust al-Bid as vice president last week and sacked several southern ministers, branding them "secessionists" who should be put on trial.

Al-Bid's side in the meantime has demanded the withdrawal of northern forces from the south.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has spoken by telephone with both Salih and al-Bid, and Gulf states have issued appeals for an end to the fighting, which has shattered the fragile unity of Yemen, an impoverished country on the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula. [passage omitted]

Sanaa Denies Loss of Aircraft, Ship

JN1305162494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1525 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, 13 May (INA)—The Yemeni Defense Ministry has dismissed the reported downing of three warplanes of its Air Force close to Bab el Mandeb at the Red Sea and the sinking of a warship off the port city of Aden.

Citing a military source at the Defense Ministry and the Staff Command today, the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', denied there were any boats in the vicinity, labelling the report mere fabrication.

The dismissed Yemeni Navy chief, Colonel 'Ali Qasim Talib, yesterday, Thursday, announced the separatist forces Wednesday shot down three warplanes close to Bab el Mandeb and sank a warship.

The Defense Ministry said the regular forces are continuing their advance in the Kharaz region, 120 km west of Aden city, having routed the 25th Mechanized Brigade at Kharaz Camp and seized all its weapons and equipment.

Aden Confirms Sanaa Losses

EA1305200694 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Defense Ministry has confirmed reports concerning the downing of three aircraft of [word indistinct] type belonging to the al-Ahmar gang in the battles which were fought near Bab el Mandeb in the Red Sea, as well as the sinking of a gunboat near the shores of Aden. He said one of the pilots of these downed planes was alive and would confirm this fact himself, when his health allowed him to do so.

The command of the Naval Forces has confirmed reports concerning the sinking of a gunboat belonging to the bloody al-Ahmar gang by our courageous Navy, which is vigilant in protecting our territorial waters.

Commenting on statements by the so-called military source at the Defense Ministry under the al-Ahmar gang which, as usual, claimed that their forces were continuing their progress in the Kharaz area, the responsible source at the Defense Ministry confirmed that there was no truth in their reports, and that it was just part of the cheap media propaganda which the bloody al-Ahmar gang typically used. The source confirmed that our forces, the forces of unity, democracy, and modernism, had fought a rare defensive battle, in which they had resisted with courage and steadfastness the hordes of treachery and betrayal, and had inflicted heavy losses on those forces, forcing them to retreat and withdraw from where they had been pushed into the war by the adventurous al-Ahmar gang.

Al-Dali' Reportedly 'Purged'

JN1305170394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The Yemeni News Agency correspondent in the al-Dali' district has reported the return of normal life to the city of al-Dali' and neighboring areas after the forces of constitutional legitimacy purged them of the forces misled by the secessionist elements in the Socialist Party. The correspondent said citizens resumed work and shops opened normally.

In another development, the [Yemeni Television] First Channel team shot pictures of the 'Abbud Camp area and other areas which were brought under the control of the constitutional legitimacy forces, including arms depots, tanks, and vehicles left behind by the fleeing forces misled by the elements of apostasy, rebellion, and secession. The news team interviewed citizens and fighters who joined the legitimacy forces. They expressed their pleasure that the forces of unity and legitimacy had managed to rid the area and its citizens of the hegemony of the forces of apostasy, rebellion, and secession and their divisive practices.

The brother citizens in the city of al-Dali' and neighboring areas appreciated the good treatment extended to them by the forces of legitimacy and unity, contrary to the falsehoods propagated by the secessionist elements in the Socialist Party. This good treatment proved that words are coupled by deeds by the legitimate leadership under brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, who instructed the Armed Forces to extend all possible assistance to the citizens in the region and protect their property in confirmation of the responsibility shouldered by the state of unity under his leadership for the sake of protecting the citizens throughout Yemen.

Al-Dali' Citizens Vow Loyalty

JN1305174894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 May 94

["Text" of cable from "al-Dali' District citizens" to Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih; date not given]

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress: From al-Dali', and in the name of thousands of town residents, and in the name of the committees for defending unity and confronting secession, we announce to you that all citizens of al-Dali' are standing in the same trench with the Armed Forces of Constitutional legitimacy, who smashed the strongholds of the forces of apostasy and secession and taught them a lesson they will never forget.

We have joined our Armed Forces, who are heading toward Lahij to sweep out the other dens of the secessionists. Proceed forward and we will march behind you, and God will grant success to all of us.

[Signed] Citizens of al-Dali' District

Musaymir Recapture

NC1405071994 Paris AFP in English 2353 GMT 13 May 94

[Excerpts] Sanaa, May 14 (AFP)—Southern troops suffered "heavy losses" when northern forces recaptured the town of Musaymir, northwest of Aden, a spokesman for the Defense Ministry announced overnight Friday.

The report came as northern leaders rejected as "nothing new" a seven-point ceasefire plan put forward by their southern counterparts.

Northern troops advanced in the town of al-Dali', 90 kilometers (55 miles) north of Aden, which controls one of the main routes to the former southern capital, SABA' news agency quoted him as saying.

Reports on the developments at al-Dali' were contradictory Friday, with each camp claiming control of the area.

The spokesman said southern forces also suffered heavy losses at Abyan where large amounts of weapons and ammunition, including 18 tanks and four armored vehicles, were seized. [passage omitted]

Arab League delegates carrying a message from the organization's Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid calling for an immediate halt to the civil war were due to meet with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on Saturday.

Friday's peace plan, proposed by the southern Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), called for an immediate end to the nine-day war and the creation of a national unity government.

But northern leaders repeated demands made at the beginning of the conflict for southern leaders to surrender.

Sanaa: Advances on al-Dali'-al-'Anad Axis

JN1405064794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 May 94

[Statement by a Defense Ministry "official source"; place and date not given]

[Text] With support and help from God, the heroes of our valiant Armed Forces continued their confrontation of the forces of apostasy and secession in various axes and sectors and foiled all the hostile, treacherous goals of the criminal secessionist elements in the Socialist Party leadership and inflicted on them heavy losses in weapons, equipment, and vehicles and forced the deceived units to flee and surrender.

In the al-Dali' sector, the forces managed to proceed with steady steps forward. Our valiant, proud Armed Forces were able to return the center of Musaymir in Lahij Governorate to constitutional legitimacy.

On the Abyan-Aden axis, the forces of unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy were able to score tangible progress and chased the forces of the secessionist rebellious elements in the Aden garrison and forced them to retreat after inflicting heavy losses on them.

In the al-Mahfid District, units from the valiant Armed Forces were able to attack the forces of apostasy and secession from the Taysir Brigade and from the command of the Central Axis and seized 18 tanks, four 130-mm armored vehicles, one 122 [mm] Howitzer, one 85-mm gun as well as quantities of military ammunition and vehicles.

The forces of apostasy and secession from the Taysir Brigade and from the command of the Central Axis retreated to (al-Naqabah) in the Shabwah Governorate. This prompts us in this statement to underline the call of tolerance, sincere brotherhood, and the single affiliation to all comrades in arms in the military units that are still under the hegemony and tyranny of the secessionist, rebellious forces. We urge them to benefit from all the clear practical lessons that have taken place and are taking place in the fields of confrontation between the forces of evil, rebellion, and secession—which ignited the war to serve their own selfish and detestable, suppressive party ambitions in order to fragment the homeland and rebel against constitutional legitimacy—and the forces of good, right, and peace which rushed to defend unity and democracy and to protect the national sanctities, at the top of which is constitutional legitimacy, and to ensure respect for the Constitution, law, and the constitutional institutions, since this is a sacred duty that must be fulfilled by every soldier, noncommissioned officer [NCO], and officer of the armed and security forces; and by every citizen in any position. This makes us pin hopes on all the soldiers, NCO's, and officers, who are more able to reject the orders of the secessionist elements and return to the trenches of legitimacy and defend Yemeni unity because so doing is much easier than making themselves and their colleague face death and defeat. He who stands against the people's will, brings a rebellious force against the unity of the homeland, or seeks to fragment it and the defenseless citizens will be a loser.

O ye who believe; if you will aid the cause of God, he will aid you, and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse]

Battles Continue in al-Dali'

NC1405132294 Paris AFP in English 1225 GMT 14 May 94

[Excerpts] Sanaa, May 14 (AFP)—A battle raged Saturday between rival army units in the strategic region of al-Dali' as hopes faded for Arab League mediators to secure a ceasefire in Yemen's civil war.

The north, rejecting a southern ceasefire plan, said troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih also captured the town of Musaymir, northwest of the south's stronghold of Aden.

The south had suffered "heavy losses."

In al-Dali', 90 kilometres (55 miles) down the road from the port city, northern forces were mopping up the last pockets of resistance and making further advances, Sanaa said.

Southern military officials said their warplanes were mounting raid after raid on the al-Dali' region, where correspondents saw seven northern soldiers dead on the side of the road, just five kilometres (three miles) from the village.

On Friday, the mountain village itself was almost deserted apart from southern soldiers, they said. Hundreds of residents have fled to Aden.

The two sides have not issued a casualty toll since the war erupted on May 5, although the north said Monday that 74 of its troops had been killed and more than 200 wounded. A Scud missile Wednesday on Sanaa claimed 25 more lives.

Clashes were also taking place in the Abyan region, east of Aden, but fighting had eased in Kharaz, on the coast 120 kilometres (75 miles) to the west of the city.

The south has said the war between Salih's troops and the forces of Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, was being waged on five fronts.

On the diplomatic front, an Arab League delegation has been here since Thursday waiting to see the president and deliver a call from the League's secretary general, Esmat Abdel Meguid, for an immediate ceasefire.

A northern spokesman in Sanaa said the meeting was finally likely to take place on Saturday.

But a source at the organisation's Cairo headquarters said the League was not expected to make any headway because both the south and north had toughened their positions.

The ruler of Bahrain, Amir 'Isa Bin-Sulayman Al Khalifah, Saturday joined the ceasefire calls and urged Yemen's rival leaders "to allow reason to prevail." [passage omitted on previously reported cease-fire proposal]

In the latest evacuation of foreigners, more than 200 nationals of the former Soviet Union arrived Saturday in Moscow on a flight out of Moscow, the Russian news agency ITAR-TASS said.

The Philippines foreign ministry said at least 619 Filipinos, including 40 children and six pregnant women, were still waiting evacuation from Yemen.

Aden Reports Sanaa Heavy Losses

EA1405202694 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 May 94

[Communique "No. 18" issued by the Ministry of Defense; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] For the 18th successive day the criminal and barbaric acts of the forces of the bloody al-Ahmar gang have continued against our people and their armed forces. This is all part of the dirty war plan announced by the leader of that gang, the war criminal, the murderer of women, children, and the elderly; the supreme murderer of the armed forces, the terrorist 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in his ill-fated 27 April war speech. Our armed forces continue their heroic resistance in the face of the forces of treachery and betrayal which moved a huge force and equipment toward the former border areas and especially towards Qa'tabah, al-Dali', al-Rahidah, and Karish.

Our armed forces managed yesterday and today not only to stop the advancing forces of the barbarous al-Ahmar gang in the directions of Qa'tabah, al-Dali', al-Rahidah, and Karish but to force those forces to retreat and withdraw from their front line positions after inflicting heavy losses. We do not pride ourselves over victories or gloat over the losses of others by talking about the losses since the first and last losers in this war are the people and particularly the thousands pushed by the leader of the al-Ahmar gang like a herd of goats to the destructive slaughterhouse along the former dividing borders. However, we must commend the rare heroic spirit and the high morale of our armed and brave forces in al-Dali' and Karish. It is sufficient to say that an old veteran yesterday succeeded in destroying six hostile tanks in al-Dali' area.

If this shows anything, it shows the high spirit of morale of our armed forces who are inspired by the justice of the cause they are defending as a sacred cause with regard to the Yemeni people. This is the cause of dignity and the honor of women which the adventurous al-Ahmar gang is attempting to trample on with its tanks. [passage omitted]

Aden Denies Northern Advances

EA1405201894 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 May 94

[Excerpt] A responsible source at the Ministry of Defense has denied what was transmitted by Sanaa radio in its news bulletin of 3:00 PM this afternoon, that is, the forces of al-Ahmar gang had advanced towards al-Dali' and al-Anad and restored the al-Musaymir Center to legitimacy according to its claim.

The source added that the report transmitted by the said radio and attributed to a so-called responsible source in the Ministry of Defense about the advance of the forces of the al-Ahmar gang in many directions, was not based on any truth at all. It is just part of the psychological warfare and misleading media reporting. It is cheap lies to which the news media of the al-Ahmar gang had become accustomed. It is a gang headed by a man who is not restrained by anyone. [passage omitted]

Commander Prepared To Capture Aden

NC1405205694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Field Colonel 'Ali al-Jayfi, commander of the northern Yemeni al-'Amaliqah Brigade, has said that his troops, backed with tanks and artillery units, are currently stationed at a distance of 40 km northeast of Aden, having inflicted successive defeats on the southern forces and overrun their strongholds in Abyan.

Speaking to an international media delegation touring the areas of the fighting, Col. al-Jayfi said that some northern troops have arrived at the al-'Alam area 20 km north of Aden. He pointed out that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih ordered the siege tightened on Aden, stronghold of the Yemeni Socialist Party. The northern commander added that his troops are repositioning themselves around the city and waiting for a political decision to capture it.

An official military source in Sanaa has said that the northern troops advanced in the al-Dali' sector and regained control of the southern al-Musaymir town.

Sanaa Troops Advance in All Sectors

JN1505052994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 May 94

[Statement by Defense Ministry "responsible source"; date not given]

[Text] With support from God, the heroes of the brave Armed Forces—the forces defending unity, consolidating constitutional legitimacy, and maintaining democratic and development achievements—continue their

heroic, sacred mission of confronting the forces of rebellion, apostasy, secession, and plotting against unity. In all axes and sectors, our forces are waging a decisive confrontation against the dens of the separatist elements in the Socialist Party, inflicting heavy losses on the helpless forces' weapons and military hardware. They advanced on the al-'Anad-al-Hawtah and the al-Dali'-al-'Anad sectors, pounding the fortifications in front of the al-'Anad base. Our troops have gone past Jawl Madram, which is located in front of the al-'Anad base.

Meanwhile, the valiant, brave Armed Forces on the southwestern axis managed to advance dozens of kilometers from the Kharaz area eastward, heading toward the Salah-al-Din camp. They seized large quantities of hardware, vehicles, equipment, and a sea radar station.

The Air Force aircraft of the valiant Armed Forces managed to mount a successful attacks on a column of vehicles and equipment in the (al-Naqabah) area, the Shabwah Governorate, assembled by the apostate, secessionist forces from both the Hadhramaut and Shabwah Governorates. The aircraft returned safely to base.

The units of our Armed Forces in all axes and sectors received many of officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers who set themselves free from the grip and domination of the apostate, secessionist forces, joining the units of the forces of unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy, declaring their rejection of the secessionist, conspiratorial scheme and joining the units of our Armed and Security Forces to confront the enemies of the people, unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy. They stressed their condemnation of the bloody massacres that were planned and perpetrated by the secessionist gang in the Socialist Party.

Commander: Troops 15-20 km From Aden

JN1505090094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0740 GMT 15 May 94

[Statement by al-'Amaliqah Forces' Commander Colonel 'Ali al-Ja'ithi; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] From this area in the Abyan Governorate and from the al-'Amaliqah camp in the town of Zinjibar, I am happy to reassure our people and all our colleagues and brothers in the Armed Forces that the situation in the Abyan Governorate is stable and that our Armed Forces are completely in control of the governorate and that the Armed Forces units and al-'Amaliqah men are on the outskirts of Aden, only 15 to 20 km from Aden. The fighting is continuing with a great momentum and with high morale. What is rumored by the media of the secessionists, liars, and charlatans, the advocates of apostasy and secession, is baseless. Their units have been liquidated, whether in Abyan, the 20th Brigade, the Madram Brigade, or the [YSP] militia and party units here, as well as all of the units they sent to Abyan such as the 30th Brigade, the Unity Brigade dispatched from Hadhramaut, and the 5th Brigade that arrived from Aden. These units were confronted with firmness, faith, and with high morale and a great number of them were destroyed.

The enemy is being utterly defeated. Its defeat has been reflected in its psychology. It has now started to hit cities and civilians with missiles and artillery. We have avoided fighting in cities because we regard ourselves as protectors of people and citizens. We have avoided that in order to preserve citizen's lives and property. But the defeated and the confused ones choose civilians as their victims.

Al-Dali' Fortifications Blown Up

JN1605054094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Secessionist fortifications in the al-Dali' area were blown up the day before yesterday [14 May]. Their destruction was attended by a large number of people who announced their rejection of the despotic and secessionist gang that ruled tyrannically over the people of al-Dali' throughout the period of the abominable totalitarian rule.

Many people arrived in al-Dali' city declaring their support for the legitimate authority. They also declared that they were joining with the forces of constitutional legitimacy that have returned life to normal and provided them with all means of security and protection from any threat posed by the remnants of secession and apostasy, which have been completely uprooted from the region.

Sanaa Official Details Operations

JN1605071094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 May 94

[Statement by Defense Ministry "responsible military source"; date not given]

[Text] With God's support and out of a firm belief in the victory of the people's will, the entrenching of justice, and the defeat of wrong in the battles of confrontation of the forces of rebellion, apostasy, and secession in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]; and to continue wiping out their dens and their collapsing fortifications, the brave heroes of our Armed Forces are completing their valiant tasks on the various axes and sectors.

On the Shabwah axis, our brave forces succeeded in destroying the advanced positions of the (?Madram) Brigade in Najd, Marqad, Jabal Bulayq, Jabal Shaqir, 'Ayn Hajar, and al-Saq. Our forces continue their advance to complete their tasks in the Bayhan District. Our forces captured several tanks, equipment, and military hardware while a large number of officers, NCO's, and soldiers from the (?Madram) Brigade joined the forces of unity and Constitutional legitimacy.

In the southwestern axis, the al-'Anad-al-Hawtah and al-Dali'-al- 'Anad sectors, the forces defending unity and legitimacy are waging fierce battles with all field guns. Our forces continue their intensive pounding of the al-'Anad Base fortifications after having purged the defensive pockets around it and forcing the defenders of the base to flee. Our forces continue to complete their missions in these two sectors.

In the same axis, our forces continued their advance to complete their set missions. They pursued the remnants of apostasy and secession in al-'Awadhil and al-Sha'ibi. The citizens turned out to meet the forces of unity, democracy, and constitutional legitimacy, chanting God is great, and cheering the victory over the remnants of secession and apostasy.

In the Abyan-Aden axis, the forces of apostasy and secession carried out an air raid on the Ja'ar area that sought to destroy the 7 October Factory and a number of the homes of citizens whom they had tried to terrify and annihilate in the past days with missiles. Their aggressive actions met with failure. That hysterical obsession led to the commission of criminal acts by targeting defenseless citizens and populated areas, firing a rocket the day before yesterday [14 May] at Sanaa. But God disappointed their bitter grudge and the rocket did not cause any damage.

Our Armed Forces are still receiving groups of officers, NCO's, and soldiers who are progressively joining the Armed Forces—the forces of unity and democracy and the defense of constitutional legality. They thus declared their rejection of the separatist plot of the sinful gang within the Socialist Party, joining the side of the Armed Forces and Security Forces in defending unity and democracy and standing up to all the enemies of the people and the homeland. We applaud the high morale of the dignified Yemeni people who are rallying around their Armed Forces and Security Forces and their national role to destroy rebellion and the plot of secession.

We applaud all our people in the Lahij Governorate for their cooperation and support for their Armed Forces. We urge them and all the citizens in the Aden Governorate to feel reassured about this great national role of the lofty Armed Forces—the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy, which protect them and their security and property, the forces protecting their stability, their present, and future.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. If ye will aid the cause of God, He will aid you, and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verses]

Sanaa Forces Advance Toward Aden

JN1605085394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, 16 May (INA)—Yemeni Army units yesterday advanced 30 km into Haraz region, around 65 km west of Aden, which they had captured last Thursday [12 May].

The commander of the Khalid Bin-al-Walid Camp, operating with the Yemeni Command, told an INA correspondent in Sanaa—who was with a press mission on a visit to the region organized by the Yemeni Information Ministry—that the Khalid Bin-al-Walid and 'Urubah Brigades had inflicted huge losses on the secessionist troops, forcing them to retreat and surrender.

The commander said the 25th Mechanized Brigade, one of the strongest units of the secessionists, 50 km west of Aden, was among the secessionist troops that surrendered to the forces of legitimacy in the battles that erupted on 12 May.

Several Yemeni military commanders have asserted that a large number of citizens were supporting the forces of legitimacy against the remnants of the secessionists.

The Yemeni government's forces of legitimacy are advancing toward Aden, the secessionists' key stronghold, from the following axes: the Abyan-al-'Anad axis, from Abyan, al-Hawtah, and al-'Alam, 12-15 km east of Aden; from the northern axis, around 80 km from the al-'Anad Base, which is around 60 km north of Aden; and from the west in the direction of the Aden garrison (Salah-al-Din Camp), which is around 15-50 km north and west of Aden in the direction of Bab el Mandeb.

Military sources say the fall of the al-'Anad Base will signal the collapse of the secessionists' main point of strength.

The forces of legitimacy are currently in control of regions 4 km away from the al-'Anad Base, which is expected to fall within the next 24 hours, according to official Yemeni military sources.

Yemeni Socialist Party Offers Cease-Fire Plan

YSP Official on Conditions

JN1305195094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1741 GMT 13 May 94

[Interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, Presidential Council member and assistant YSP secretary general, by Salim Badawi; place and date not given; from the weekly "The Event" program—recorded]

[Text] [Muhammad] Following the eruption of battles in Sufyan and the 3d Brigade, the YSP [Yemeni Socialist Party] called for the formation of an inquiry commission. Regrettably, the incidents continued. The Ba Suhayb Brigade in Dhamar was also attacked, after which the military situation exploded. We really regret the accusations. We also urge the stopping of this bleeding, this crushing war raging among the sons of the Yemeni people, which claims the lives of Yemen's sons.

[Badawi] Concerning the nature of war, Mr. Salim Salih Muhammad, the northern Yemenis claim that the

fighting is taking place between the Constitutional legitimacy and the rebelling forces of the YSP leadership, as they put it. What is the YSP's viewpoint on the nature of the raging conflict?

[Muhammad] Are we not also part of the legitimacy? Have we not assumed power in light of the results of elections in the country? Are we not part of the Presidential Council, the Council of Ministers, the House of Representatives, and the other state institutions? We do not come from islands in the Pacific Ocean. We come from Yemen. We are Yemen's sons. We have been representatives of a state and a recognized legitimate power. We have achieved unity on an equal basis with our brothers in the north. Such claims do not render any service. In fact, they further exacerbate the conflict. Very regrettably, they also open a very deep wound in Yemeni unity and national unity.

[Badawi] The northerners' conditions for a cease-fire are represented by the YSP leadership's adherence to Constitutional legitimacy, and the submission to the legitimacy led by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, as they say. Are you willing to accept these conditions? What are your conditions, as the YSP, to stop fighting?

[Muhammad] The YSP has never proposed that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih should be finished or go, or that the existing legitimacy, represented by the Presidential Council, the Council of Ministers, the Parliament, or the other existing state institutions, should go. However, he who has made the war decision, and who is waging it now against his sons, army, and people, to prove that he is the strongest and the triumphant, he is the one who will eventually lose history and the people.

[Badawi] What are your conditions for a cease-fire?

[Muhammad] We have no conditions other than actually beginning to implement the pledge and accord document, to recognize people's rights and duties, and to build the modern Yemeni state. Some sides believe the military option will give them the upper hand over everything, and enable them to establish their regime the way they want, in accordance with their own interpretations. Such a decision, I believe, is a crazy decision. The Yemeni Armed Forces and Yemeni installations are now being destroyed. Innocent people are being killed, the Yemeni people in Aden, Sanaa, al-Dali', Abyan, Shabwah, and Dhamar. These people are the victims of this crazy war which will not achieve the objectives of those who ignited the war.

[Badawi] President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was quoted as saying that he wants to try 'Ali Salim al-Bid and his men, or to allow them to leave the country. What is your opinion about this?

[Muhammad] I have not heard such a thing. What I ask for now, from he who has reason and really wants to avoid further involvement in these crazy battles which, as I said, claim the lives of the sons of the Yemeni people, we ask them at this critical moments when the homeland is suffering from an ordeal and fragmentation, to stop the war immediately and resort to the language of dialogue, logic, and reason.

[Badawi] What about the dismissal decisions that affected senior southern officials, led by 'Ali Salim al-Bid? The northerners say that southern deputies participated in the voting sessions. Is that true?

[Muhammad] In your opinion, and in view of the current conditions, the state of emergency, and in view of the campaigns of physical liquidation we heard about in Sanaa, who would participate in such sessions? What kind of democratic, peaceful atmosphere would they have in a state of war? The world, the Arabs, and the Yemenis must understand what is going on in Yemen now. The situation is serious. It needs assistance from all our brothers and friends.

[Badawi] With regard to the rumors about appointing a successor to 'Ali Salim al-Bid and others in the central government in Sanaa, especially in the Presidential Council—a probable candidate is rumored to be 'Ali Nasir Muhammad—how do you view such reports?

[Muhammad] These issues are presented as bargaining chips in order to be used in haggling. In my opinion, the people have this right. The people gave their votes to their representatives in areas from which we came. These people have this right.

[Badawi] Now that the situation cannot be decided on the battlefield—a week has passed since the outbreak of hostilities—what are the chances that a return to dialogue will be effected and unity saved?

[Muhammad] There is no other way, regardless of the battles. The warring sides must eventually negotiate. I think that regardless of the harshness of the situation or the number of victims, we must preserve what is left and resort to the correct method, the method of dialogue, irrespective of differences. As for the war methods, regardless of their quick results, it will have very serious consequences in the future. It will not only cause wounds but will lead to a great suffering and moving the Yemeni people 30 to 40 years backward.

[Badawi] In your view, is it possible to save the unity?

[Muhammad] In my opinion, if the political will that was available when the unity was reached is still there, the answer is yes. However, judging by the methods that are being used in the battlefields and the vindictive way military personnel are dealing with unarmed civilians in towns and villages, deep wounds have been caused in national Yemeni unity.

[Badawi] Do you expect mediation, especially Arab mediation, to result in positive results, particularly in the foreseeable future?

[Muhammad] There is mediation and there are Arab efforts, but regrettably the brothers in Sanaa are rejecting all this. They believe the military solution is the ideal

solution. This reading of the situation and of reality is tantamount to gambling. We wish them guidance from God. We wish they are guided to the right path.

[Badawi] In case Arab mediation fails, will you demand international intervention by the UN Security Council and the United Nations?

[Muhammad] So far, I have not been informed of any decisions from the brothers at home but we will consult on all possibilities, because everything is possible.

Details of Proposal

EA1305203794 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] politburo has announced a political initiative aimed at ending the fighting in Yemen. The initiative includes eight [as heard] points: The question of the immediate cessation of the war is the first point of the initiative.

The second point provides for the formation of a national salvation government, which would attempt to eliminate the effects of the war.

The third point stresses the maintenance of what is left of the Armed Forces, as well as their reorganization, in addition to the disengagement of forces currently confronting each other. The attacking forces must be withdrawn to their former pre-war positions.

The fourth and fifth points of the initiative refer to the protection of the lives of the citizens and their possessions, and to fair compensation for those who have been harmed. The victims of the war, both civilian and military, should be regarded as martyrs.

Political and military detainees should be released. The detention, pursuit, or torture of any political or military elements should be prevented. Likewise, the looting of citizens' property should not be allowed. Looted goods should be restored to the owners, or those owners should be compensated. Parties' rights to exercise political activitity, in accordance with the Constitution and the law, should be recognized.

The seventh point [as heard, no mention of sixth point] stipulates that there should be no withdrawal from the implementation of the pledge and accord document.

The eighth point of the political initiative put forward by the YSP proposes that the national salvation government investigate those who caused the war and its declaration.

North Rejects Plan

NC1305200494 Paris AFP in English 1934 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Dubai, May 13 (AFP)—Northern Yemeni leaders rejected late Friday a southern ceasefire plan to end fighting which has opposed rival forces for the past nine days, and demanded the surrender of southern chiefs.

An official spokesman said by telephone from the Yemeni capital Sanaa that there was "nothing new" in the seven-point plan put forward in Aden by the southern Yemen Socialist Party (YSP).

He said that "the legitimate leadership in Sanaa demands the surrender of the war criminal" ousted vice-president 'Ali Salim al- Bid, who heads the YSP.

They also wanted the surrender of "all the others responsible for the war, so that they can be judged for war crimes."

The plan put forward Friday by the YSP called for an "immediate end to the war" and the creation of a government of national unity.

The government would be charged with "wiping out the consequences of the war" and conducting an inquiry into "those responsible for the war," a source said in the southern stronghold of Aden.

YSP Denounces Sanaa's Rejection

EA1405200094 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 May 94

[Statement issued by Yemeni Socialist Party Politburo in Aden on 14 May]

[Text] O masses of our great Yemeni people, O living forces in Yemen, the Arab homeland and the world, to all those with consciences who reject war everywhere: The bloody influential gang in Sanaa has chosen war as a method of dealing with a political crisis which the country has witnessed for 11 days now. Days pass and the war continues to dispel the illusions of those who ignited it and believed that it would only last for some hours or two days at the most because of what the leaders of this war said at the time. The circle of destruction is widening as well as pain and suffering affecting our country and homeland all of which threaten the unity of the country and its stability.

Despite the appeals of the presidents and kings of the fraternal Arab countries and the leaders of many countries in the world, in addition to the pleas of international organizations and national leaders to stop this war and submit to the language of dialogue, the influential bloody gang in Sanaa disdainfully rejected them. This is because that bloodthirsty gang continues to ignore all those appeals and initiatives and boasts about its insistence to continue the march over a river of blood and over the skulls of soldiers and citizens [words indistinct].

The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] has shown a (?positive) response to the appeals and initiatives of brothers and friends to (?end) this war on the basis of rejecting the principle of force to settle differences. The YSP initiative announced yesterday (?calling) for the war to cease came

from its realization of the gravity of bloodshed, the destruction of towns, installations and the armed forces.

When the YSP politburo rejects the war, and is concerned about ending the bloodletting of people and soldiers, and responds to the appeals and initiatives of the leaders of fraternal and friendly countries, it does so not because it is weak, but because it has a profound belief in the need to prevent Yemen from suffering the continuation of this destructive and bloody war which cannot be confined to a part of the shores and mountains of Yemen. Indeed, its flames will spread to include all the towns, shores, mountains and valleys of the homeland without any exception.

The YSP, as it responded to the appeals and initiatives of the leaders of states and fraternal and friendly governments who called for an end to the fighting, was fully aware that Arab countries, as well as the international community, would voice their stand with regard to those who refused to respond to the initiatives which embodied the realization of the leaders of fraternal and friendly countries about the necessity to stop this bloody war and its destructive effects on the unity and progress of Yemen.

Those who believed this war would end in hours or a few days and conducted themselves accordingly in the arrogant manner of invaders and conquerors, ought to realize well that this war will not end if they want to continue it. They will bear the historic responsibility and the high price which the people and the homeland will have to pay due to their insistence in continuing this war in which nobody will be the winner.

We appeal to all the good forces in Yemen and the neighboring countries, all the fraternal Arab and friendly countries and all those with consciences in the world to continue their efforts to convince the bloodthirsty to submit to reason and end the hysteria.

The politburo confirms that it rejects the war and welcomes all Arab and international initiatives and appeals to end it. It will not submit to the superciliousness and arrogance of those who insist to continue the war and destroy the unity of the country under the cover of legitimacy. Those who wish to continue to ignore the appeals of reason and conscience and the necessity to stop this war must bear the responsibility of continued bloodshed, banishment of families, destruction of towns, killing of innocents, and the destruction of the Armed Forces. They must realize that if they have opted for war as a means of imposing hegemony and annexation and if they also opt to ignore the initiatives and appeals of the good forces which reject the war in Yemen, the Arab homeland, and the world, they will not be able to choose a definite place for this war and impose it on us. When war is ignited, it burns where it wills. When the spark of war is not extinguished, then that spark will change to fire and ultimately hell. Those who have committed injustice will get their just rewards. God has spoken the truth.

Arab League Delegation Visits Northern Region

Inspects Sanaa Missile Impact Site

JN1405175694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] A visiting Arab League delegation, led by Major General Muhammad Sa'id Bayraqdar, the Arab League assistant secretary general for military affairs, this afternoon visited the site where a missile exploded. The missile was fired by the secessionist, rebellious gang of the Socialist Party last Tuesday [10 May] on a densely populated quarter of the capital, Sanaa.

The Arab League delegation saw the destruction caused by the missile's explosion over the citizens' homes which fell over the heads of their residents. They also saw the damage caused to many neighboring houses.

The delegation listened to citizens on the material and human losses sustained in the explosion, which claimed the lives of 23 martyrs and left dozens others injured. This is in addition to the panic caused for women, children, and old people who were asleep the moment the missile of the secessionists exploded in the capital of the unity state, targeting the lives of secure civilians.

Received by Presidential Council Member

JN1405183394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council, has received the Arab League delegation led by brother Major General Muhammad Sa'id Bayraqdar, assistant secretary general for military affairs. The Arab League delegation is currently on a visit to our country.

The member of the Presidential Council received a message addressed to brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, from Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid on the current developments in our country. The message expresses the Arab League's concern to maintain Yemeni unity as a Yemeni national gain and a pan-Arab achievement from which there must be no retreat.

Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani affirmed to the Arab League delegation that the rebellious faction in the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP], which provoked the military situation, despite the exhausting efforts and many concessions made to the YSP to avoid military confrontation. However, the misguided faction continued with its stubbornness and dragged the country into the current situation. He stressed that the Yemeni leadership is keen to end the fighting by adhering to Constitutional legitimacy and its Constitutional and executive institutions as well as by sticking to the results of the parliamentary elections held on 27 April 1993.

The member of the Presidential Council also expressed our country's appreciation of the Arab League's concern about what is happening in our country, for which the rebellious factions in the YSP leadership are held responsible. He added that Yemeni unity represents a great gain for our Yemeni people, who will defend and protect themselves from any plotting concocted by the rebellious faction in the YSP leadership, whose grudge against our people and their people made them shell the capital, Sanaa, and other Yemeni cities with Scud missiles. He said: The determination of our people to defend unity and democracy cannot be shaken by these desperate criminal attempts.

Received by Deputy Prime Minister

JN1605054694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi yesterday received an Arab League delegation led by Major General Muhammad Sa'id Bayraqdar, assistant secretary general for military affairs. The Arab League delegation is currently on a visit to our country.

The two sides reviewed the developments in our country in light of the war ignited in the homeland by the gang of apostasy and secession in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leadership.

The deputy prime minister explained the developments in the Yemeni arena, holding the secessionist rebellious leadership of the YSP responsible for igniting the military situation in the country. He noted that this took place in accordance with a premeditated scheme and began with the actions of this gang, which is rebelling against political legitimacy by violating the framework of the government coalition, paralyzing the legitimate institutions, casting doubts about them, and obstructing their role.

The deputy prime minister expressed his appreciation for the Arab League's role in shouldering its pan-Arab responsibility to protect Yemeni unity, which is considered a pan-Arab achievement that concerns all the sons of the Arab nation, and to support justice and constitutional legitimacy.

Aden Council Calls For Arab League Intervention

EA1405132294 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2045 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The Council of Coordination Between Parties and the Masses, Organizations, and Nationalist Citizens in Aden Governorate has sent a telegram to brother Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League. The telegram calls on the secretary general and the Arab member states to intervene, directly, effectively, and quickly in order to halt the fighting between the Yemeni military forces and secure towns and citizens from any acts of aggression. Also, it asks the League to pave the way for the political forces to hold dialogues about the implementation of the document of pledge and accord, considering that that document is the sole solution, and to seek a new formula for unity.

The telegram said it was necessary for the Council of Coordination to address this direct call to the secretary general of the Arab League at a time when Yemeni weapons were being pointed at other Yemenis and when Yemen was being destroyed and its people exterminated after the achievement of unity.

Aden Citizens Asked To Support Northern Forces

JN1505111094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0820 GMT 15 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To the sincere sons of our Yemeni people in Aden, the economic and trade capital. To those who defeated colonialism and upheld the values of truth, justice, and equality. To those who have been afflicted by the gang of a new brand of party dictatorship and by the elements of the clique of repression, apostasy, and secession. To the faithful ones who fight and struggled for a free Yemeni life but reaped instead slavery, oppression, and tyranny and paid a high price for the worst and most horrible Marxist and atheist experiment, which spread repression, nationalized property, and confiscated rights and liberties and forced on the good elements, even in the Socialist Party itself, ideological estrangement, homelessness, and harassment.

To those who offered dozens of relatives as sacrifices to end the nightmare of the militias and to escape the massacres of the killers in the Socialist Party leadership for over 27 years of totalitarian regime, which severed the sinews of love between one brother and another, and between father and son, and destroyed the bridges of trust among the groups of society and shook people's confidence in themselves and in their ability to get rid of the party's shackles, of its rabid dogs, and the torture in its dungeons.

To the free Yemeni people in the brave city of Aden—military and civilian, shopkeepers and laborers, men and women, boys and girls. To those who were at the forefront of the masses who on 22 May 1990 shouted long live the unity, and raised the banner of unity and democracy, and wiped out the partition and its deplorable remnants.

To the fathers, brothers and sons; to the mothers and sisters, we ask you to take a firm, unwavering stand against the barbaric trap that has been set for you by the secessionist elements in the Socialist Party. Beware of them and know that the Armed Forces and security forces are your own forces, the forces of constitutional legitimacy, the protectors of unity and democracy. Therefore, these forces are to be trusted in caring for your life, security, and stability because they are responsible for the life of the entire people.

Therefore, we are confident that you will always be with them, especially today when they are embarking on the heroic path and confronting the latest chapter in the plot of the secessionist gang, which the is taking of the tranquil life in Aden as a trench to protect it from the just punishment of heaven and from people's will. This gang is endeavoring to drag the Yemeni Armed Forces into storming this trench at the expense of your security and stability, a thing which this gang failed to realize, thanks to the astuteness of the political leadership of brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, who has been issuing firm instructions to the Armed Forces' brave brigades and battalions and to the splendid men of the homeland's protectors that they should not be dragged into the plot prepared by the sanguinary elements of the Socialist Party, which aim to destroy the proud city of Aden in the wake of their utter and expected defeat.

O free brothers, you are aware of the secessionist gang's hatred toward Aden and its inhabitants. You are aware that this sanguinary plot is an extension of the policy of destruction that the Socialist Party devils led on 13 January 1986. That is why we appeal to you to take the initiative, foil the plot, and join the trench of defending unity and democracy under the fluttering banner of constitutional legitimacy, and to face the secessionist gangs firmly, bravely, with conviction, and with an unwavering stand.

We appeal to you to rob all those who rebel against constitutional legitimacy at any opportunity and to extend all kinds of support and backing to your heroic sons of the Yemeni Armed Forces, who will uproot the elements of apostasy and secession with God's backing and your support. They will eliminate those who endanger the homeland and bargain at the expense of the supreme people's interests.

O free brothers, let the people's will, which is the will of justice, proceed with daring, strength, and capability. Let your cry roar and let us work together along the same path to save the unionist city of Aden from the secessionist plot so that it will remain safe and free and an honorable landmark of the new Yemeni homeland, which now belongs to the procession of the free world, thanks to its unity and democracy.

Accursed be the plotters, the enemies of God and the people, the enemies of unity and democracy, and the enemies of life and democracy.

'Ali Nasir 'Not Party' to Conflict, Willing to Mediate

PM1305111294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Faysal Makram, Ibrahim Humaydi, and Ashraf al-Faqiyy: "Sanaa Announces Capture of al-Dali'; Aden Announces Recapture of Zanjibar"]

[Excerpts] Sanaa, Aden, Damascus, Cairo—Yemen witnessed fierce fighting between its two armies yesterday. Sanaa announced yesterday that its forces have moved into the strategic city of al-Dali', while Aden stressed that its forces have recaptured Zanjibar, capital of Abyan Governorate, from the northern al-'Amaliqah Brigade.

Aden denied that northern forces have seized al-Dali', a stronghold for a large number of southern army commanders. However, neutral sources have told AL-HAYAH that it seems that northerners have made advances in al-Dali', and that fierce fighting is taking place in the directorate. With regard to Zanjibar, the sources say they can confirm Aden's information in this connection.

Former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has issued a strongly worded statement in Damascus, stressing his "willingness to return to Yemen to mediate between the Yemeni leadership parties in order to safeguard unity." He denied the existence of any link between him and "the political bases agreed between the two partners (the Socialist Party and the General People's Congress)." [passage omitted]

Responding to accusations leveled at him, he said: "I am not a party to the disputes tearing Yemen apart. My full support is for Yemen, its unity, and national unity." He added: "I am proud of my supporters wherever they are. They will serve nothing except the issue of unity, for the sake of which they have made sacrifices. And they will struggle to safeguard it."

He said that what is happening in Yemen does not help the two sides to engage in calm negotiations. "However, it is not the end of the road yet for the negotiations, an understanding, and national reconciliation, despite the ferocity of the fighting there." He pointed out that he has done "a great deal and I am still willing to play a constructive role between the two parties to the conflict in order to secure a solution that safeguards the Yemenis' unity, spares them the calamities of war and destruction, and spares Yemeni blood." [passage omitted]

Government Officials Return From Saudi Arabia, Eritrea

JN1305111994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Brother 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, minister of planning and development, returned to Sanaa today following a visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Eritrea.

During the visit, they conveyed two messages from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, to Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Eritrean President Issaias Afeworke. The messages deal with the developments in Yemen and bilateral relations.

YSP Official Denies Party Wants To Secede

JN1305133894 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 8 May 94 p 1

[Text] Cairo—In exclusive statements to AL-ITTIHAD, 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, former Yemeni foreign minister and head of the Political Directorate of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], stressed that he informed Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd- al-Majid yesterday that 'Ali Salim al-Bid accepts any measures the Arab League and the Arab countries will take to stop the war in Yemen. He also said that interest in stopping the war is not considered interference in his country's internal affairs. He also underlined that the YSP has no intention of seceding and denied that foreign parties were behind the start of the fighting.

Al-Dali said the problem is that there is a party that does not want to implement the first part of the pledge and accord document which concerns the security and military situation.

Al-'Attas Urges Return To Dialogue

JN1305135894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1205 GMT 13 May 94

[Telephone interview with dismissed Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, in Washington, by unidentified correspondent; date not given; from the "Weekly File" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-'Attas] What is taking place in Yemen is a tragedy. The war raging there does not serve any of the Yemeni people's interests. Political differences should not have led to such a fierce war. This is hurting our people in Yemen and all their interests. We warned against this. And, refraining from violence or the use of force to deal with disputes was consecrated as a principle at the beginning of the political dialogue during the crisis. Therefore, the situation is difficult and tragic, and against the Yemeni people's interests, against their unity, against all the bonds of brotherhood, and against their economy. Therefore, we are trying by all means to stop this war and return to the voice of logic and to a dialogue of reason and conscience.

[correspondent] What about the pledge and accord document signed in Amman?

[Al-'Attas] One of the aims of the war, in my opinion, is to contain, circumvent, and renounce this document. It is very obvious that any military action to deal with the crisis will be intended to stop dialogue and sound treatment of the crisis, as stated in the pledge and accord document.

[correspondent] What, Mr. Prime Minister, do you think of current Arab mediation efforts?

[Al-'Attas] I think the Arab nation has a very large pan-Arab responsibility to adopt responsible positions to stop the bleeding in Yemen and to push all the parties toward responsible dialogue in order to address the current political problems in the country, which coincided with the establishment of Yemeni unity in May 1990. We pinned hopes, and we continue to pin hopes, on Arab efforts, particularly the Syrian and Egyptian efforts, as well as those of other Arab countries represented by the Arab League.

[correspondent] What about the decisions taken by the leadership in the north to depose several officials?

[Al-'Attas] These are illegitimate unconstitutional, and secessionist decisions. They cannot resolve the problem correctly and peacefully. All the decisions by the House of Representatives and other bodies mean nothing. They only underscore the desire of the warmongers and the continuation of this war in Yemen. Once again, I stress that war is against Yemeni interests and against the interests of the Yemeni homeland. Therefore, such decisions are meant to sever all ties and all economic channels. I would like to reiterate that they are illegitimate and meaningless.

[correspondent] There is also a question abouit the future of Yemeni unity. What can you say about this unity?

[Al-'Attas] No doubt, it is in danger. War means work against unity. We have repeatedly drawn attention to this. We said resorting to war would mean acting against unity and against the wishes of the Yemeni people. Unity cannot be achieved by war or by military victory. I hope the leadership of the Yemeni people will stop this bloodshed and return to the language of dialogue and logic and to the language of reason, not emotions and desires. This is the path that can guide all Yemenis to the best method to address the problem and the current political situation in Yemen and find practical solutions to them.

Oil Minister: Production Unaffected by Clashes

EA1305201794 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Brother Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, the minister of oil and mineral resources, has confirmed that Yemeni oil production and (?refining) operations have not been affected, in spite of the violent fighting going on in our country. Brother Bin-Husaynun, who is currently visiting a number of Arab capitals, said that the production of oil from the Ma'rib, Shabwah, and Hadramawt fields was proceeding normally, and that the oil installations have not been subjected to any attacks. He pointed out that defense precautions had been taken to prevent sabotage operations and repulse any attacks.

He said that oil was a resource belonging to all the Yemeni people. The forces of the bloody al-Ahmar gang should avoid any attacks on these installations.

YSP Official: Dialogue Only Solution to Crisis

EA1305211294 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, Presidential Council member and assistant YSP [Yemeni Socialist Party] secretary general, said that the option for peace, for dialogue, for sitting at a roundtable to discuss the entire situation, was the only way to settle the current crisis.

He said that the YSP, which had led the moves for unity and democracy, had neither planned nor even thought of resorting to a military approach. Brother Salim Salih Muhammad added, in a radio interview with him today with the Netherlands international radio, that the readiness of the Armed Forces had been destroyed over the last four years. There were also various assassinations of YSP leaders, cadres, and members. It was the other side which was driving the country into the inferno of this destructive war. The only real loser would be the Yemeni people.

He pointed out that the Yemeni people—from one end of the country to the other—their brothers in the Arab homeland, and their friends worldwide, demanded an immediate cessation to the fighting, which was destroying the resources of Yemen, its military establishment, and all the other facilities which they had been building over the last thirty years.

Moreover, the war was inflicting a fatal wound to the body of national unity built four years ago. The brother member of the Presidential Council said that the ideal option of imposing unity could not be effected without conviction. People should come to unity voluntarily, not by force, by the pounding of villages and towns, or by genocide. He demanded an immediate end to the fighting and the beginning of a dialogue. All issues should be tabled for discussion. By these means we can arrive at solutions satisfactory to the Yemeni people, their brothers, and their friends.

Al-Bid Reportedly Ready To Quit To End War

JN1405050994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid has addressed an appeal to all Yemenis in which he called on them to stop the raging war in Yemen and to return to the language of reason and dialogue. In a radio interview, al-Bid expressed his readiness to cede his post and leave the country to put an end to this destructive war.

The Yemeni vice president welcomed any dialogue that spares the country the woes of war and further bloodshed, maintains unity, and prevents partition.

Al-Bid's News Conference Comments Criticized

JN1405075094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0439 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] A responsible official source has rebutted the lies and fabrications 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the war criminal, the leader of the gang of apostasy and secession in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] command, and the killer of children and women in defenseless cities, made at a news conference the day before yesterday. The source emphasized that everything he said is the figment of the imagination of a man who has been overwhelmed by the thirst for absolute power since the era of the one-party dictatorship and a man who is fond of statements that emanate from the complex of leadership and abhorrent megalomania.

The source explained that it is uprising and ironic that the deposed al-Bid speaks about legitimacy and delivers legal opinions about it, he who has been divested of legitimacy after he refused to comply with the people's will and accept the results of the legislative elections on 27 April 1993, to be sworn in before the House of Representatives as vice chairman of the Presidential Council, and to respect this constitutional body. He is well aware that this position was given to him although the constitution does not provide for such a position. He also insisted on being given this title in the news, despite of the fact that he had not taken the constitutional oath. The YSP also assumed the third position on the Presidential Council in accordance with the results of the elections on 27 April 1993, in which the YSP won 56 seats, coming third after the General People's Congress [GPC], which came in first, and the Yemeni Reform Grouping, which in came second.

In spite of this, the GPC gave up its right to three seats on the Presidential Council in accordance with the elections results and gave the YSP two seats on the Council. The GPC also agreed to give al-Bid the position of vice chairman out of concern for national interests and national accord and to avoid any exacerbation of the crisis that al-Bid started with his return to Aden on 19 August 1993.

It is strange that al-Bid speaks about the legitimacy of the others, who enjoy full legitimacy and who were elected by the constitutional establishment as representatives of the entire Yemeni people out of their free will, which they translated through the legislative elections. This butcher continues to call himself vice chairman of the Presidential Council knowing full well that he is not legitimate because he has violated the Constitution and has not taken the constitutional oath and because such a position is not provided for in the Constitution.

The source explained that al-Bid was the first to circumvent democracy and party pluralism when he refused to comply with the people's will and did not accept the results of the elections.

The source added that the criminal butcher al-Bid goes so far in his lies and falsification of facts as to deny the indiscriminate use of weapons of mass destruction—long-range missiles—to hit secure civilians in Sanaa, Ta'izz, al-Hudaydah, al-Rahidah and other cities in the republic. As a result of this odious crime and treacherous, brutal act of aggression, many innocent civilians among the elderly, children, and women were killed and many houses and civilian installations were destroyed. We do not know what the butcher al-Bid can say about those innocent victims who were killed under the debris of the houses destroyed by the missile that he and his gang fired on 11 May. Nor do we know what al-Bid can say about his missile that landed on the al-Rahidah hospital, killing many patients lying on their beds in the hospital, or what this butcher and his clique can say about his media trumpets' haughty, conceited, and insane appeals and threats to fire more missiles into cities to intimidate citizens who have been terrorized by the rancorous missiles that poured down over their heads while they were sleeping in their homes.

The source added that al-Bid is shamelessly lying and continues to lie, believing that he can deceive others. He is a psychologically disturbed person suffering from a state of psychological, political, and media schizophrenia, with his words constantly contradicting his acts. Because of this illness, the butcher al-Bid triggered the war in Yemen and mired the Yemeni people in a cycle of bloody fighting to peddle his secessionist plan, the features of which have begun to become clear since he ignited the crisis on 19 August 1993, the subsequent steps of the military explosion, and then the starting of the war. This plan started on the eve of the signing of the pledge and accord document in Amman. Then, military units were moved from Hadhramaut, Shabwah, and Aden to besiege and destroy al-'Amaliqah Brigade in Abyan. Afterward, they fomented sedition in (Harf) Sufyan, the Shabwah Governorate, 'Imran, and Dhamar, and attacked central security personnel in Aden and the personnel of the 2d Armored Brigade in al- Rahah, Lahij.

The source explains that this criminal butcher and his secessionist clique would do well to leave the homeland or surrender themselves for fair trial so as to spare our Yemeni people further bloodshed and suffering and the homeland further destruction. The source stressed that our Yemeni people and public opinion abroad have become fully aware of the reality of al-Bid and his rebellious, secessionist gang and their lies and fabrications, which cannot fool anyone anymore.

YSP Group: Salih's Declarations 'Unconstitutional'

EA1405132594 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] The parliamentary bloc of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and its friends in the Council of Representatives has stated that constitutional legitimacy is an integrated system which means a rigorous and strict application of the constitution and laws enforced by bodies, organs, and institutions of the state. Therefore, the decisions issued by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih are regarded as a clear and blatant violation of the Constitution because they were not issued in accordance with the rigorous provisions made by the Constitution of the Yemeni Republic.

In a statement issued yesterday, the parliamentary bloc emphasized that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's declaration of the state of emergency is regarded as null and illegal because such a declaration requires the existence of a special law that regulates and explains the declaration of the state of emergency and its circumstances on the basis of Article 94, paragraph 17 and Article 97 of the Constitution.

The parliamentary bloc of the YSP condemned the spiteful raids against the YSP's centers and the pursuit and detention of YSP and other political parties and organizations' leaders and members, currently being carried out by state bodies controlled by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his secessionist executive military family. The YSP parliamentary bloc called on the Arab League and all brothers and friends to exert their generous efforts to stop the war immediately and rescue the homeland from destruction to which it is currently exposed. It stated that there is in the YSP initiative a truly correct and appropriate solution to save the homeland and preserve the unity of the territory and its people.

Ba'th Party Denounces Use of 'Destructive Weapons'

JN1405184294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] The Yemeni Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has denounced the use of destructive weapons and the shelling of secure villages and cities by missiles, inflicting heavy human losses. This is in addition to the material and moral damage involved.

The party said innocent citizens killed in secure residential quarters and villages are the victims of secessionist disputes and selfish interests that govern the conduct of those who showed no seriousness and credibility toward the crisis.

The party reiterated its adherence to, and support for, unity by all legitimate Constitutional means since it is more important and precious than any other objective in its struggle and existence.

The party said it will spare no effort to protect unity. It strongly rejected any reasoning and conduct that harms unity. The party said now that blood has been shed, bodies have been torn apart, and children, women and old people have been terrorized, the required position should be to show concern about the suffering of the homeland and transcend narrow,

conflicting whims and interests that distort the homeland and destroy the deep-rooted values and meanings that associate the Yemenis with the Constitutional institution, avoiding regional and sectarian loyalties.

The statement of the Ba'th Party in Yemen, addressed today to the masses of the Yemeni people, reasserted the party's rejection of any Arab or foreign intervention under the pretext of disengaging the warring troops, stressing that this is an internal question.

Minister Visits 'Purged' al-Dali', Promises Aid

JN1405190094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] At the request of brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdalllah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, Muhammad Hasan Dammaz, minister of local administration, today visited al-Dali' District, which has been purged of the Yemeni Socialist Party's renegade and secessionist clique. The minister attended a large rally in the city of al-Dali' and addressed crowds from the district.

At the beginning, he conveyed the greetings of brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, as well as his wishes and congratulations to them and to our Yemeni people on the victory over the renegade and secessionist clique. He said this great victory was achieved thanks to God and the will of our people and all honorable unionists everywhere in the Republic of Yemen. He said this victory which you have achieved made us and every Yemeni citizen proud. He said that purging the al-Dali' District, as well as the victory achieved by the heroes of the Armed Forces in it, has restored the people's confidence in themselves and in their unity.

The city of al-Dali', he said, is the city of heroic deeds and bravery and the gate of victory that will correct the course of unity, which will be devoid of factionalism, sectarianism, cronyism, or regionalism, and which is considered a victory from almighty God and a victory of right over wrong. He urged all the sons of the district and all those who left it to return to their families. He said the state and its leaders will protect them, provide security for them, and take care of them, stressing that no harm will come to them. This is, he said, a promise from Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and from all officials in the Presidential Council, the government, and the leadership.

He said that the state and Lt. Gen. brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih have issued their instructions to implement an electricity and water project in the city of al-Dali', stressing that the project will be implemented immediately.

Brother 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Ali Hilal, deputy governor of the Ibb Governorate, also delivered a speech to the crowds, hailing the steadfastness of the heroic sons of al-Dali' District, their support for Constitutional legitimacy, their defense of unity and democracy, their efforts to entrench the state of order and law, and their effective participation in defeating the forces of renegade and secession. He added that the brother leader president had asked him to form several committees to register the names of the martyrs and the wounded and the names of those whose houses were destroyed by the forces of renegade and secession. This, he said, will take place quickly in order to ease the suffering of the sons of the district, who faced disasters at the hands of secessionists before the restoration of the Yemeni Unity and during the years that followed it, stressing that victory is for our people, our revolution, and our unity, and that defeat is for the secessionists. The rally was attended by Ibb Commander Colonel Muhammad Ahmad al- Zayyani, al-Dali' District head Muhammad Isma'il Muqbil, and several officials from A'tabah and (?Dimzah) districts.

The minister of local administration met with the commanders of the military units and officials in the al-Dali' District and discussed with them various issues of interest to the district and its sons. He also inspected (?Dimz) District, met officials from it, and listened to a number of supply and educational issues of interest to the citizens. Several officials from the district attended.

Unity Celebrations To Be Held in All Governorates

JN1505132894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] The higher committee charged with preparing for the festivals marking the fourth anniversary of the Yemeni Republic met this morning under brother Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al- Anisi. During this meeting, the conferees discussed the timetable for the celebrations of the Republic's national day, the fourth anniversary of unity and the establishment of the Yemen Republic.

Despite the difficult circumstances brought about by the gang of apostasy and secession in the Socialist Party, the committee decided to hold festivals to mark this dear anniversary in all governorates in the country; the anniversary of the day on which our people's dream and great goal—the restoration of unity and the establishment of the Yemeni Republic—was achieved on 22 May 1990.

House Speaker Holds News Conference on Situation

Forming New Government Salih's Prerogative

JN1505133594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, the House of Representatives speaker, today held a news conference attended by local, Arab, and foreign correspondents.

In this news conference, which was held at the House of Representatives, the brother House speaker explained that his recent visit to fraternal Saudi Arabia was a normal visit that falls within the framework of the understanding and ties between the two fraternal countries. These ties, he said, are eternal and strong. We must all exchange views on issues that are of interest to the region. He added: The visit also aimed at explaining developments to the brothers in Saudi Arabia. We found that Saudi Arabia and the other fraternal Arab states support legitimacy.

Asked if the House decision to remove al-Bid's legitimacy and suspend [Prime Minister] al-'Attas came late and if it should have been taken at the start of the crisis, Shaykh al-Ahmar said: As regards 'Ali Salim, he does not enjoy legitimacy because he did not take the oath before the House of Representatives. He defied the House. The House took the appropriate Constitutional decision. As regards Haydar al-'Attas, he was given the vote of confidence to implement the government statement. He asked for a period of few months to implement the statement. He, however, did not fulfill his promise and continued to procrastinate, after the House made several requests to him and after his government failed to implement what it pledged. As for the delay, it stemmed from the House's concern to contain the crisis fabricated by 'Ali Salim and his gang. All the forces continued to work to contain it, but he continued to escalate the crisis to the level of a military explosion and then the House had to take that position.

The House speaker added: Within that context, and after the rebels ignited the war, the House position is supportive of the head of state and the supreme commander of the Armed Forces and the forces of the people, which are the forces of legitimacy. This is natural in such circumstances.

He noted that the formation of a new government is a prerogative of the Presidential Council chairman.

House Members Continue Duties

JN1505182294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 May 94

[Excerpt] Brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, the House of Representatives speaker, has stressed that the House has no reservations whatsoever about the Yemeni Socialist Party and its activities in the Yemeni arena, but the House stands against the rebels in the party's leadership. He explained that members of the Socialist Party are still performing their activities inn the House of Representatives.

This emerged in the news conference the brother House of Representatives Speaker held today, 15 May, which marks the passage of one year since the first session of the elected House of Representatives and the election of its speakership office. He said this is a dear occasion [words indistinct] embodied in 27 April 1993 through which the legitimate and Constitutional institutions were born. He stressed that all of this was the product of democracy in which we believe and to which we adhere, regardless of attempts by those who are trying to circumvent the results of the elections. He said our Yemeni people adhere to unity and democracy because this is their fate and future, and because they emanate from Islam. Therefore, he said, they will stand by them and protect them against all secessionists.

The brother House of Representatives speaker explained that Saudi Arabia and other fraternal and friendly states support legitimacy and view the issue as one between the state and rebels. He noted that this does not mean they (?hesitate) to exert efforts, individually and through the Arab League. He said his visit to Saudi Arabia yielded good results and that the ties between the two countries are eternal and strong. Therefore, we have to exchange views with our brothers to put them in the picture. Additionally, the visit fell within the context of strengthening and activating these ties.

He explained the interaction by Arab capitals, both near and far, with the events in the Yemeni arena emanates from the brotherly (?ties) and the desire to stop this bloodshed.

The brother House of Representatives Speaker praised the stand of all Arab brothers who exerted and are exerting efforts and are showing concern for [words indistinct] the efforts of King Husayn and his great and effective roles to contain the crisis since it started. The king's position, al-Ahmar said, was the position of the brother who is concerned about his brothers. [passage omitted; covered in referent item and containing indistinct words]

YSP's al-Dali: Dialogue Needed; al-Dali' Retaken

JN1505191394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1721 GMT 15 May 94

[Interview with 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, YSP Political Bureau member and official in charge of foreign relations, by Salah Salamah; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Salamah] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Political Bureau member and official in charge of foreign relations in the party, the recent reports about the battles say that the northern units of the Yemeni army are now 20 km away from Aden and that they continue to advance toward the country's economic capital. How true are these reports? How do you assess the situation on the ground?

[Al-Dali] It has become clear that Sanaa has been transmitting lies since the very first day these battles began. You followed with me the news that Sanaa has been transmitting over the past 10 days, that they are 3 km away, 6 km, and 10 km, then they went back and said 20 km. The truth is that these are all lies by which they seek

to boost their morale in order to prevent popular upheaval in wake of the big defeats they have sustained over the last 10 days. Now, fighting is raging on the borders between the former two parts of the homeland. The situation is very good in Abyan, and also [word indistinct] in al-Dali.'

[Salamah] Have you recaptured al-Dali' city?

[Al-Dali] Yes, yes. We recaptured it yesterday and [words indistinct] settled in our favor, and the al-'Amaliqah elements are being liquidated. They have entered houses, (?plundered] villages and valleys [indisdtinct word] in Abyan.

[Salamah] The central command in Sanaa seems to be set on a military solution and seeks, as it says, to arrest the leaders of the south, after describing them as the advocates of apostasy and secession, with Vice Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid at their head. Do you believe it is still possible to resort to dialogue to find a political solution to the conflict in Yemen?

[Al-Dali] I say that political dialogue is a sine qua non, no matter how intense the fighting becomes. In the end, there will be no other choice but to hold a dialogue. The military settlement about which they have spoken so much has reached a dead end. There is no other course open to them but to [words indisintct] and sit around the table so we may talk and hold consultations.

[Salamah] The YSP has addressed urgent calls to the Arab League to have it immediately intervene to stop the battles. The Arab League delegation to Yemen still waits in Sanaa without any result. The delegation still waits to meet [words indistinct]. On your part, do you still hope for the success of the Arab efforts to stop the fighting?

[Al-Dali] The truth is that the parliamentary bloc within the YSP is the one that addressed an urgent call to the Arab League to stop this massacre Sanaa's soldiers are determined to carry out. Yes, we still call for stopping the fighting and the bloodshed, in spite of everything. We, the Yemenis, do not have any other course but to sit together after stopping the fighting and to hold a dialogue. We give the Arab League an important role. We hope that it succeeds in its endeavor.

[Salamah] Many Arab countries, especially Syria, as well as the Arab League, today made a new appeal to the friends in Yemen to halt the battles and implement the pledge and accord document. This is what the United States also did yesterday. Do you believe this document is still suitable and can be implemented after all what has happened? Will the Yemeni leaders respond to the calls of the fraternal and friendly countries?

[Al-Dali] I believe that if the fighting halts, the document can be discussed because it is still vital.

[Salamah] What new element can make Yemeni leaders implement this document, which was signed in Amman a long time ago?

[Al-Dali] I said we hope the other party will also be ready to implement and apply the document. But if they do not want to, as they did in the past, if they reject the document, or if they are unable to implement it, then that is another question. The document cannot be applied by one party. The document should be applied by all parties involved. For our part in the YSP, we still believe the document can be applied and can be dealt with. But, if the other party does not want to, then this is another question and it will be difficult and even impossible to implement the document.

[Salamah] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, in light of the facts in the field and the adopted positions, it is regrettably clear that the military option still overwhelms other options. The contradiction has assumed a conflicting nature, and it may not be decided in light of current factors unless there is a victor and a vanquished in Yemen. Do you believe that there is still a chance of dealing with the conflict politically?

[Al-Dali] I believe that despite all that has taken place, we can deal with the issue politically. We always prefer the political option, to which we should resort in the final analysis, when all the other options, including the military one, fail—a military option adopted by Sanaa. We have not resorted to the military option. We have opted for the political solution. We believe that after the military option fails, Sanaa will inevitably return to the political option.

[Salamah] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, the human and the material losses are huge. How long will the fighting in Yemen continue, in your opinion?

[Al-Dali) We will continue it until the last man. We will not allow the imposition of any solution by force. We will not allow any one to enslave us in this way Sanaa (?ruler) wants.

[Salamah] Thank you Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali for your interview with Paris Radio Monte Carlo.

Basindwah: Northern Troops Aim To "Blockade" Aden

NC1605094094 Paris AFP in English 0908 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Doha, May 16 (AFP)—Northern forces loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih aim to blockade the southern bastion of Aden but not capture it, Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Basindwah said Monday.

"The priority is not to capture Aden but to put it under blockade, by controlling its entries and surrounding heights," Basindwah, a northerner loyal to the president, told the Qatari newspaper AL-SHARQ.

The northern army would not try to capture Aden, a stronghold of Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, to "save human lives and vital economic facilities" in the southern port city.

"Toppling the separatist clique within the Yemeni Socialist Party" of al-Bid "is the responsibility of the people, the leaders and the unionist militants of the YSP and their armed forces," Basindwah said.

His comments came as Salih's forces, fighting an all-out war against al-Bid's since May 5, were reported Sunday to be advancing on Aden.

Basindwah repeated that al-Bid and his followers should be brought to court "for plotting against the unity" of Yemen.

North and South Yemen merged into a single state four years ago.

He reiterated the north's rejection of an Arab military intervention to stop the fighting, saying this would mean a "recognition of an entity led by the rebels."

'Aziz Meets U.K., Djibouti UNSC Delegates

JN1305191094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] At his place of residence in New York this morning, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz held another two sessions as part of his talks with representatives of UN Security Council members.

He first met with David Hannay of the United Kingdom and later with Djibouti's Roble Olhay.

Mr. 'Aziz is scheduled to confer later today with Russia's Yuliy Vorontsov and Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus.

'Aziz Meets Vorontsov, Ekeus

JN1405103494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] New York, 14 May (INA)—At his place of residence here last night, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with Russian Ambassador to the UN Yuliy Vorontsov.

The deputy prime minister also met with Henrick Fally [name as transliterated], Brazilian deputy permanent representative, whose country is a nonpermanent member of the UN Security Council.

Tariq 'Aziz also met yesterday with British Ambassador David Hannay, Djbouti Ambassador Roble Olhay, and Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Security Council Special Commission.

Following his one-hour meeting with Tariq 'Aziz, Amb. Ekeus told reporters that the meeting was fruitful and that there was a common understanding between the two sides.

He explained that the two sides discussed developments in all fields, as well as monitoring and future verification.

Situation in N. Iraq 'Chaotic'; Clashes Continue

LD1205194194 Tehran IRNA in English 1741 GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Sanandaj (Kurdistan Prov.), May 12, IRNA—The situation in the northeastern Iraqi city of Sulaimaniya is chaotic, sources close to the Islamic Movement of Iraqi Kurdistan reported here today.

They added that sporadic clashes continue in northern Iraq among the Kurdish groups.

They said that on Wednesday at Dyana and Rawndouz the Kurdish Hizbullah revolutionary forces led by Sheikh Adham Barzani have regained control of Ziweh and Barziweh from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

The Islamic Movement of Iraqi Kurdistan said its forces attacked Khormal, Rouzeh Biareh and Towaila in response to recent aggressions of the Jalal Talebani led PUK.

The reports have yet to be confirmed by independent sources.

Regime Reportedly Uses Napalm in Attack on North

NC1505165494 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] The Kurdistan office of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has stated that an armored brigade of the Iraqi regime has launched a major offensive against a number of villages in the Dhi Qar Governorate.

A statement issued by the office said that the regime's artillery bombarded [words indistinct]. SAIRI sources said that the regime used napalm bombs in the attack.

Kurdish Party Calls For Uprising Against 'Agents'

JN1405112094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0942 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 14 May (INA)—The Political Bureau of the Kurdistan Revolutionary Party has condemned the mass annihilation scheme whose dirty chapters are being implemented by agents Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani against our Kurdish people.

In a statement, the party called on the honorable Kurds—the descendants of Salah-al-Din—to close their ranks, escalate their daily struggle, and to trigger the spark of a major, comprehensive popular uprising in Kurdistan against the murderous agents of foreigners and to liberate Kurdistan from their filth.

The party called for putting an end to those reckless, criminal murderers' encroachments against the Kurds' rights, property, and souls and to evict them from the cities to the mountains and valleys, where they can fight each other like hungry wolves and settle scores any way they want. The lives of innocent children, women, and elderly people, whose only fault is that they live under the control of those gangs, should be maintained. The party appealed for evicting those beasts to the mountains and valleys.

Jericho Turned Over to Palestinian Control

TA1305115894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The town of Jericho and its environs were turned over to Palestinian control approximately 30 minutes ago. Major General Ilan Biran, the commander of the Central Command, shook the head of General Hajj 'Isma'il, the commander of the Palestinian al-Aqsa Brigade, wished him success in his mission, and offered the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] cooperation. Maj. Gen. Biran said that the IDF troops had implemented the withdrawal with full success.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that 462 Palestinian policemen have entered Jericho with approximately another 1,000 expected to arrive later. Local residents enthusiastically welcomed the Palestinian policemen and flew PLO flags from their cars.

Maj. Gen. Biran signed an order banning Israeli citizens from entering the Palestinian autonomous areas over the coming days. The decree went into effect as soon as the Palestinian police assumed responsibility for the area. An IDF spokesman asserted that the major general signed the order due to security considerations. The entrance of Israelis into the Jericho area will only be permitted after security conditions there make this possible.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq held up the entry of Palestinian policemen from Jordan and Rafah for many hours after the PLO failed to meet the conditions of the agreement and did not transfer a list with the names of the members of the Palestinian authority to Israel.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that this was a condition stipulated by the agreement signed by the PLO and Israel and Yasir 'Arafat promised to send the list by last Wednesday [11 May]. However, Israel was only given a partial list of 15 names out of the 24 members of the Palestinian authority late last night. Only then were the policemen permitted to cross the border checkpoints.

IDF Commander on Jericho Turnover

TA1305104294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1015 GMT 13 May 94

[Report by Golan Yokhpaz from Jericho—live]

[Text] [Yokhpaz] The historic handshake between Major General Ilan Biran, the commander of the Central Command, and the Palestinian commander took place several moments ago. Major General Biran, you are speaking live on IDF Radio. What were your feelings at that moment?

[Biran] It was a very exciting moment. We have achieved a joint success. I hope this success is only the beginning and we will see over the next few days whether things are fully working out. There is a great deal of promise but reality is a bit more difficult and we must be realistic.

[Yokhpaz] What did the Palestinian officer say to you?

[Biran] We have been discussing things for many days and these issues are not for comment over the radio.

[Yokhpaz] Did you give them any last-minute tips prior to their entrance?

[Biran] Yes, we have agreed on our respective duties.

[Yokhpaz] Major General Biran, could you bid a short farewell live on IDF Radio to the Jericho autonomous area?

[Biran] We have implemented the government's decision. I salute the soldiers here who did an excellent job.

[Yokhpaz] That was Maj. Gen. Ilan Biran at the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] checkpoint at the entrance to what is now the Palestinian autonomous area in Jericho.

Settlers, Yeshiva Students Enter Jericho Synagogue

TA1505081394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] A group of approximately 40 Council of Jewish Settlements leaders and yeshiva students, headed by Knesset Member Hanan Porat, arrived in Jericho's old synagogue a short time ago. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports they arrived in a convoy of cars hoisting Israeli flags. The commander of the Palestinian police force in the area opened the synagogue gates and they entered accompanied by many media crews. Our correspondent notes that there is great tension in the place.

IDF Evacuates Division Headquarters in Gaza

TA1605061894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] evacuated the division headquarters in downtown Gaza early this morning. Only few installations in the Gaza Strip have still not been handed over to the Palestinians. These installations will be evacuated today or tonight. The evacuation will be completed tomorrow in a ceremony in the Qatif Bloc. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that 24 hours after the evacuation is completed the joint IDF and Palestinian police patrols will start.

Peres: No Peace Without Full Golan Withdrawal

TA1305105194 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 13 May 94 p 2

[Text] "There is no chance of attaining peace with Syria without a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Anyone who believes al-Asad can be satisfied with less, is living in illusion."

These remarks were made yesterday by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in an address before members of kibbutzim in the Meggido Regional Council, held at Kibbutz 'En Hashofet. "Let us not fool ourselves with regard to al-Asad's demands. The precedent al-Sadat set in Sinai serves as a basis for his demands," Peres said.

Peres added that in addition to their demand for a withdrawal, Syria also demands reciprocal demilitarization. That is, if Israel demands that part of the Golan Heights be demilitarized, the Syrians will demand that the Upper Galilee be demilitarized as well. "Naturally, such a demand is impractical. When I told Egyptian President Mubarak about it, he laughed and said that had Egypt presented such a demand, the entire territory of Israel would have been demilitarized," Peres said.

Peres on Histadrut Elections, Peace Process

TA1405085194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres favors permitting all Labor members who resigned in the wake of the Histadrut labor federation primaries to return to the party, including Hayim Ramon and his associates.

In an interview to Qol Yisra'el, Foreign Minister Peres said that the desire of Histadrut voters for a change should be respected. He adds however, that the results of the primaries must be honored if one seeks to maintain a democratic system. Peres warned of the danger of forsaking democracy to television in which a candidate's image counts more than level-headed considerations.

As for the political process, Peres asserted that yesterday had marked the completion of an important stage in the process, with the next stage of elections in the territories and the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from population centers starting now.

From now on, Peres noted, there would be two parallel tracks: One, in Washington, where the expansion of autonomy to the rest of the territories would be discussed. The second track would deal with the early empowerment of the Palestinian residents in the fields of education, health, social welfare, and taxation.

On the eve of Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, Foreign Minister Peres said there was no certainty that the visit would lead to progress in the negotiations with Syria seeing as up till now, Damascus had offered nothing new in its proposals which merely repeated previous, well-known Syrian positions.

'Expectations' From Christopher Visit Previewed

TA1505152394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 May 94 p A1

[Report by Aluf Ben, 'Aqiva Eldar, and Gay Bekhor]

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will apparently visit Jericho on 17 May in order to get a first-hand impression of the establishment of Palestinian autonomy.

Christopher prefers not to focus exclusively on the negotiations between Syria and Israel during his current Middle East tour. It was originally proposed that Christopher visit Morocco with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres but the trip was canceled after Morocco's King Hassan explained that he had no intention of taking steps to normalize relations with Israel. Officials in the American peace team suggested that the secretary of state visit Jericho, and Israel expressed no opposition.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has explained to the U.S. Administration that he has no intention of making further declarative steps toward Syria and is now waiting for a positive reaction from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the Israeli peace proposal. Israeli sources say that "the ball is now in al-Asad's court." Sources assert that by declaring his readiness to evacuate settlements in exchange for peace and to implement a significant withdrawal on the Golan Heights, Rabin had taken large steps to meet the Syrians half way, while Damascus had continued to adamantly insist that Israel declare its readiness to carry out a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights before any progress in the negotiations.

"The proposal handed to Christopher during his last visit to Syria was more detailed and practical than in the past; however, as far as its content there was no change in the old Syrian position," the Israeli sources noted. The sources said that Christopher would make it clear to al-Asad that Syria would have to take steps to promote the negotiations with Israel and at the same time prove that it had changed its policies with regard to terrorism and the drug trade.

The secretary of state will arrive in Damascus today and in Jerusalem tomorrow. He will probably meet Prime Minister Rabin tomorrow evening and again on Tuesday [17 May]. According to the reports which have reached Jerusalem, Christopher does not plan another shuttle trip between Damascus and Jerusalem and will leave for Cairo on Wednesday. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew in a report by Pe'erli Shahar and Natan Gutman on pages 1 and 8 notes that "A different aspect of the negotiations with Syria that will be raised in the meetings with Christopher is the scope of commitments and guarantees the United States is prepared to give Israel in exchange for its withdrawal on the Golan Heights. This entails strategic cooperation, real-time satellite information, and of course, an estimated $5 billion in financial aid to strengthen Israel's defense and security systems."]

Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, the head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Syria, will arrive in Israel this evening and meet tomorrow with the prime minister prior to Secretary of State Christopher's arrival. Yesterday in Washington, Rabinovich said that Israel

expected Syria to accept the basic idea behind the "package" principal. Rabinovich said that he does not anticipate any progress in the negotiations without agreement on this issue. Rabinovich explained that although Syria cannot be expected to agree to every detail in the package, it must accept its underlying principle as well as an essential part of it.

Commenting on Syrian media reports, Rabinovich said yesterday that on the eve of the secretary of state's visit, Syria was seeking to paint a bleak picture of the situation in a bid to pressure Israel and the U.S. Administration.

[Later in the same report mentioned above, 'AL HAMISHMAR reports that "Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, the head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Syria, said that he was not surprised by the criticism leveled by the Syrian press at the Israeli package of proposals for an arrangement on the Golan Heights. 'It is not surprising that the Syrians are trying to portray the situation in bleak colors on the eve of the secretary's visit. This is a transparent attempt to pressure Israel and the U.S. Administration,' Rabinovich asserted.

"The ambassador pointed out that there was a great deal of wisdom in the U.S. policy of lowering expectations from Christopher's shuttle mission between Damascus and Jerusalem because many further visits were anticipated and one should not expect a breakthrough or dramatic progress on every visit. When he was asked to define Israel's expectations from Christopher's visit, Rabinovich said: 'The purpose of this visit is to create the necessary energy to promote the negotiations and facilitate a substantive round of direct negotiations between Syria and Israel.'"]

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said over the weekend that there was no guarantee that Christopher's visit would lead to changes in the negotiations with Syria.

"The proposals submitted by Syria up to now are definitely not earth shattering; however, there are certain dynamics in the air and we need to continue trying to promote the negotiations with them," Peres said.

Cairo Accord Said To Perpetuate Status Quo

TA1305172994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 May 94 p B1

[Commentary by Meron Benvenisti: "Agreement of Surrender"]

[Text] Now that the noise of the festivities saluting the Gaza and Jericho First agreement has abated and the expressions of ridicule regarding Yasir 'Arafat's buffoonery have been thoroughly exhausted, the time has come to ponder the cause of all this celebration and decide which party ought to be rejoicing. A perusal of the agreement's hundreds of pages leaves no doubt as to who stands to lose and who stands to gain from the deal. Through the hundreds of lumbering, ambiguous, and petty nit-picking clauses, subclauses, addenda, and protocols, the total Israeli victory and complete Palestinian defeat are clearly visible.

Minister Shulamit Aloni found the courage to mar the doves' rejoicing on the very first morning after the signing of the agreement: "Had the British written in so many restrictions, the State of Israel would not have been established," she said. It was an understatement, because (to use the same metaphor) the "British" have not left and the nation that is under occupation has, with its signature, legitimized the conqueror's continued presence.

The peace camp is celebrating and the right wing is screaming, but it can safely be assumed that were Menahem Begin among us today, he would have signed the Gaza-Jericho agreement with only minor adjustments, because this agreement represents the successful implementation of the formulas Israel had proposed during the autonomy negotiations—formulas that were rejected at that time. It is safe to assume that several veterans of the frustrating negotiations held 14 years ago attended the recent signing ceremony, and their contempt for Yasir 'Arafat stemmed not only from his televised contortions but also from the fact that the Palestinians acquiesced on some very substantive issues which the Egyptians had refused to cede.

It is hard to tell what the Palestinians would have achieved had they not rejected the Camp David accords, and it is easy to understand the disappointment and rage of the territories leaders, who have realized the magnitude of their disgrace. Had the Israeli leaders not considered the phased implementation of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] so important, they should have rushed to implement it throughout the West Bank: They will never get a better agreement in terms of safeguarding their political and economic interests.

To gauge the Israeli success in implementing the 1981 autonomy plan, one should read the article Yo'el Singer published in HA'ARETZ almost two years ago (31 July 1992), over a year before the DOP was signed. Singer described at length the Israeli proposals drafted by him at the instruction of Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and outlined what Israel wanted to achieve in terms of "withdrawal," "redeployment," "source of authority," Israeli-Palestinian distribution of powers, the definition of "settlement areas," and the evacuation of Israelis from the "self-rule authority's" jurisdiction. All these proposals were rejected by Egypt: "They maintained that the autonomy authorities should rule throughout the geographic outlines of the territories and over all the people living in them, including the Israeli settlers and settlements. The Egyptians added that an Israeli presence in the territories is illegal."

Fourteen years after their introduction, the proposals have been fully implemented. According to the agreement, the "security annex," which permits free IDF

[Israel Defense Forces] troop movement and the continued existence of a "military installation" and areas of "security importance," expresses the "full implementation" of the "withdrawal" and "redeployment." This wording complies with the Israeli interpretation of Security Council Resolution 242. The military government's "withdrawal" will not prevent it from exercising powers detailed in the Cairo agreement. These powers—unbelievable as it is—include "legislative, judicial, and executive powers and responsibilities, in accordance with international law."

Thus, Gaza and Jericho continue to be under military occupation, and the Palestinians agree that the IDF's withdrawal does not nullify its status as sovereign and does not even restrict this status to the settlement areas. The Palestinians even agree that the entire complex system of military government orders, extralegal [last word published in English] arrangements, and extraterritorial legislation by the Israeli Knesset, which annexed the settlements and converted them and their inhabitants into an integral part of the Israeli system, will remain intact.

The existing legal framework, therefore, will remain in force, except for powers "to promulgate legislation, including basic laws, laws, regulations, and other legislative acts," which have been transferred to the Palestinian authority, as long as those actions are acceptable to Israel, because if they are not, it has the right to annul them via a venerable body of judges, which will be authorized to approve the legislative acts only if they do "not seriously threaten other significant Israeli interests protected under this (Gaza-Jericho) agreement."

Only in one area is there no restriction on the Palestinians' authority: their responsibility for all the commitments and all the actions and slipups that took place prior to the transfer of powers. Israel will cease to bear financial responsibility for its acts and omissions during the years of occupation, and any claims against it will be sent to the Palestinian authority. Add to that the economic appendix, which leaves Israel in a dominant position, and Israel's ability to execute physical changes and unilaterally determine arrangements within the territory it holds, which will have a decisive impact on the two small enclaves, and the conclusion becomes absolutely clear: The Cairo agreement does not contain anything to prevent its adoption by all the political camps—coalition and opposition alike.

All the glittering props—uniforms, flags, passports, and stamps—which irritated the right wing so much, cannot hide the fact that "Gaza and Jericho First" serves to legitimize the continuation of the status quo in its basic outlines.

It is difficult to say why Yasir 'Arafat gave in to all the Israeli demands. Was it due to his weakness, a lack of staff work, the purge of the "local" leaders who understand the situation, or does 'Arafat view the entire agreement with disdain and believe that reality will ground this entire legal set up? After all, all colonial occupation forces withdrew from the territories under their rule only after signing detailed agreements with the national liberation movements. But the agreements between the Americans and the Vietnamese, between the French and the Algerians, turned into nothing more than a dead letter because, from the start, they were merely meant to save face. That might turn out to be the situation here as well, but that optimistic forecast cannot deny the irony: The late Menahem Begin's autonomy plan will be implemented by a dovish peace government.

King: Country Not To Interfere in Yemeni Affairs

JN1405110694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 May 94 p 10

[Article by a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter: "Jordan Ready To Give Humanitarian Aid to Yemen but No Mediation"]

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn has reiterated Jordan's readiness to provide humanitarian assistance to Yemen but said the Kingdom would not interfere in the internal affairs of the war-torn Arab Peninsula country.

During a meeting with Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah, who paid a brief visit to the Kingdom Thursday [12 May], the King expressed concern with maintaining the unity of Yemen and ending the bloodshed between forces loyal to South Yemeni leader 'Ali Salim al-Bid and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Mr. Basindwah, who is on a tour of Arab countries to inform them of the developments in the Yemeni conflict, left Jordan for Damascus after delivering to King Husayn a verbal message from Mr. Salih.

In an arrival statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Basindwah praised the role Jordan played in trying to mediate the crisis between former socialist South Yemen and the Conservative North before the political crisis there erupted into full-fledged civil war earlier this month.

"Jordan entered the Yemeni history" when in February it hosted the signing of a reconciliation agreement between Mr. Salih and Mr. al-Bid, said Mr. Basindwah.

He also thanked the Kingdom for treating some of the wounded in the war, which has claimed thousands of casualties since it started 11 days ago. Jordan has also sent a medical team to help treat war victims.

After the war erupted, North Yemen rejected any foreign mediation effort, insisting on a military settlement of the conflict, but indicated it would accept a negotiated settlement to the crisis after it had become clear that it will not be able to achieve a military victory.

An Arab League delegation was on its way to Sanaa in a bid to end the conflict but Mr. Basindwah said the league did not offer mediation. its delegation would only "review developments in the situation in Yemen," he said.

Prime Minister Abd al-Salam al-Majali has said that Jordan would not mediate in the conflict unless both parties to it agree on the Kingdom's role, adding that Jordan would not "interfere in support of either parties to the crisis."

Dr. al-Majali said King Husayn had telephoned both Mr. al-Bid and Mr. Salih in a bid to end the fighting but North Yemen sees any foreign intervention as meddling in its internal affairs.

Jordan has evacuated over 750 Jordanians from Yemen on board military aircraft, and Royal Jordanian (RJ) airliners. RJ has halted its flights to the country, which observers say would be dragged into a protracted civil war unless a negotiated settlement is found.

Dismissed Yemeni Oil Minister Holds News Conference

JN1505100594 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 May 94 p 28

[Report on a news conference by dismissed Yemeni Oil Minister Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun by Nabil Ghazzawi in Amman on 14 May]

[Text] Yemeni Oil Minister Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun told a news conference at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel yesterday morning that he conveyed to His Majesty King Husayn a message from his brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Yemeni vice president and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], on Yemeni developments since the eruption of fighting among the brothers and sons of the one Yemeni homeland.

Bin-Husaynun said the YSP leadership welcomes any call or mediation by His Majesty King Husayn to halt the current bloodshed in Yemen. He praised the sincere Jordanian role represented by King Husayn's continuing personal efforts to spare blood, heal the rift, and maintain Yemeni unity, as well as his majesty's continuous call on brothers to apply logic in solving their differences. He said that Jordan, represented by His Majesty King Husayn, and Oman represented by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, exerted great efforts to resolve the Yemeni crisis, which resulted in the signing of the pledge and accord document in Amman on 10 Ramadan. He added: The current events would not have happened if the other party had implemented the document, to which we adhere and which addresses all aspects of the crisis.

Bin-Husaynun accused President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of obstructing the implementation of the document, especially after he felt that its implementation would greatly curtail his powers, and said he began the Abyan battle only one day after the document was signed, when all Yemeni parties were still in Amman. He said the president ordered the al-'Amaliqah Brigade forces to start the battle, which was followed by other battles that resulted in the destruction of some brigades of the Yemeni Armed Forces in the south.

He stressed that the YSP is a unionist party and will continue to be so. He said it was the YSP that achieved unity and handed power over to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He denied reports that neighboring states are helping the YSP in the Yemeni crisis and said these are

excuses made by others. He indicated that the coming days will reveal those who support the unity and those who oppose it.

He stressed that guns cannot solve any problem and voiced optimism that logic will replace force as a means to protect the citizens and Armed Forces from destruction and eventually preserve the unity of the homeland.

Bin-Husaynun said the discovery of oil or the existence of oil reserves in the south is not the cause of the crisis and war. The causes, he said, lie in political differences and contradictions. He said oil was discovered in both the north and south before unity and it is not the property of one person, but all the Yemeni people.

He denied that Yemeni territory has been leased to Saudi Arabia and said there are border issues that can be solved through dialogue. He said a Yemeni-Saudi committee is in charge of this.

Asked about the legitimacy of the decisions made by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the Yemeni House of Representatives to depose Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, and the oil minister, Bin-Husaynun said these decisions were stupid, illegal, and will not solve the problem. He said the one who declares war on his people can have no legitimacy and that all President Salih's decrees are illegitimate.

Asked about President Salih's refusal to halt the fighting, Bin-Husaynun said that this is unusual in society whether on the Arab or international level. This refusal was condemned by more than 30 states during the inauguration of Nelson Mandela in South Africa recently.

The Yemeni minister denied the presence of troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih near Aden. He said what 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani said in this regard is not true because fighting is now taking place on axes more than 120 km from Aden. He added: The southern town of al-Dali', which reportedly fell to the hands of the northern forces, is still in our hands. Moreover, our forces are in control of Bab el Mandeb. He said battles are currently taking place in the Abyan Governorate and that there were no battles in the Zinjibar and Ja'ar areas during the past two days.

Responding to a question, Bin-Husaynun said the YSP rejects the principle of separation as an alternative to war and as a solution to the crisis because the party principles are based on the unity of Yemen. He denied that Arab forces are fighting with the northern forces, stressing that elements from some Arab states with only political affiliations were captured.

Concluding, Bin-Husaynun stressed that the current crisis is not a personal one between the president and his deputy, but is due to basic differences over Yemeni issues such as authority, security, and economic and social development.

Bin-Husaynun said he will visit other Arab states following his visit to Jordan, including Saudi Arabia, for the same purpose.

Economic Talks With PLO Conclude in Amman

Closing Session Postponed

JN1305150094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] The closing session of the Jordanian-Palestinian Economic Committee, due to have convened in Amman this morning, has been postponed. Also postponed was a subsequent news conference by the chairmen of the Jordanian and Palestinian sides to the committee, Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of information; and Mr. Ahmad Quray', the PLO's Economic Department chief.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, Dr. al-'Anani attributed the delay to the preoccupation of the Palestinian leadership with numerous issues, including the formation of the Palestinian Authority Council and matters related to the transfer of power.

The final session of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks that began in Amman Tuesday [10 May] is due to be held within days.

During the two-day meeting, the committee addressed numerous economic items, including trade, banking, monetary policies, customs, and tourism.

Talks End; Free Trade Outlined

JN1505175294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] The Jordanian-Palestinian Economic Committee, which began its work last Tuesday [10 May], ended its meetings at the Prime Ministry today. The Jordanian side was led by Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs and information minister, and the Palestinian side was led by Ahmad Quray', head of the PLO Economic Department. Details are in the following report:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY following the end of these meetings, Dr. al-'Anani said the meetings were obviously aimed at focusing on the substance of issues and finding detailed, practical solutions in order to be able to provide the required practical climate for starting a new stage of economic cooperation on clear-cut bases and bolstering the Jordanian and Palestinian economies.

He said: We have agreed on many basic points in several areas of cooperation. But, he added, there are still two points which the Palestinian brothers feel they should study further and that they might clarify with the Palestinian leadership. He said the two points revolve around ways of coordination to license new banks, dealing with

the Jordanian dinar, and settling payments between the two sides. Dr. al-'Anani explained that these points are not a subject of dispute, but that they remained outstanding, pending a settlement. He expressed hope that this will take place in the near future, and said that if these two issues are settled, we will have accomplished something extremely important to prepare for the comprehensive concept of economic cooperation.

He added: We have agreed that after settling issues pertaining to trade, customs tariff, transit, tourism, issues related to the monetary and banking sector, and arrangements to encourage the private sectors on both sides to cooperate, we should move to another stage soon to discuss other issues, like agriculture, industry, transportation, and the contract sector in a detailed manner. He also explained that it has been agreed in principle that the private sector's activities should occupy a leading and clear position in cooperation and promoting economic exchange.

Dr. al-'Anani expressed his thanks to and appreciation for the Palestinian side for its seriousness and its sincere desire to reach cooperation and joint concepts about various issues under discussion.

For his part, Quray' told the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY: Over the past days, we have held brotherly, sincere, and serious talks on various issues of interest to us during the next stage in order to support and assist the Palestinian authority to deal with its burdens. Quray' also said: The most important agreement we reached during these meetings is that we decided that trade between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Palestine should be free and should be exempted from all fees and taxes, except every side's practices regarding its national product.

He added that it was also agreed that a free zone will be established in the Jordan Valley to assist both sides' farmers to store and process the agricultural products' surpluses and to contribute to other projects.

Regarding banks and currency, he said: We have fully agreed on licensing all the Jordanian banks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It was also agreed that the Jordanian dinar would be the main currency to be used, not just one of the currencies, and would be the tool of registering and paying to the Palestinian authority. He added: We also agreed to form subcommittees on trade, currency, banks, and tourism, which we hope will begin meetings as soon as possible. He added: There are still some points that need more clarification from the Palestinian leadership, and we will work for that purpose during the next two days and will return to resume our meetings. He said: The session was adjourned and will be resumed very soon. Quray' said that what is left is a discussion of the details and translating the approved working program into facts, as well as monitoring our ability to implement, develop, and expand it in the future. [end recording]

'Main Points' of Accord Listed

JN1405092194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 May 94 pp 1, 5

[Article by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The release of details of agreements reached between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on implementing their Jan. 7 economic accord has been delayed for 48 hours upon the request of the PLO leadership, both sides said Friday [13 May].

It was not immediately known whether the PLO leadership in Tunis would seek any amendment to the agreements, which were supposed to have been formalised and released Thursday through a joint statement and a press conference.

The delay in the process was attributed to the PLO Executive Committee's preoccupations with naming members of an "autonomy cabinet" for the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Information made available to the JORDAN TIMES indicated that the main points covered by the agreements included:

—The formation of a joint committee for banking and monetary affairs in the autonomous territories; envisaged under the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO declaration of principles;

—Free trade between Jordan and the autonomous territories; and

—Maintaining the Jordanian dinar as the "main currency" in circulation in the occupied territories.

"These are the salient points in the agreement which are of utmost importance at this point in time," said a Palestinian source. "Other points cover the technical details of how to implement these decisions and also touch upon tourism," said the source, who preferred anonymity.

Jordanian sources confirmed that these were the broad outline of the agreements, reached in two days of talks between a high-level Jordanian delegation headed by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Jawad al-'Anani and a PLO team led by Ahmad Quray', director of the Economic Department of the PLO.

"It is an implementation-oriented document, and we hope to launch moves on the ground as soon as it is ratified by the leaderships of the two countries," said a senior-Jordanian source, adding that the government had reviewed and endorsed it.

According to the source, who also preferred anonymity, "the agreements are those we could arrive at, given the peculiar circumstances of Palestinian autonomy."

"Are the Palestinians free to decide and act as they want?" asked another official, in a reference to an economic agreement signed by the PLO and Israel in Paris in April.

That accord details a series of measures that are widely seen as confining the PLO's freedom in exercising its economic options with Jordan, or any other party other than the occupying power itself. Furthermore, it also closed the door against the implementation of some of the provisions in the Jan. 7 agreement signed between Jordan and the PLO in Amman.

Asked whether the agreements reached last week reflected the Kingdom's acceptance that they were the best that the Kingdom and the PLO could hope for, given the Israeli-imposed limitations, the source was non-committal, saying: "That's your deduction."

The sources said the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee on banking and monetary affairs could meet as early as Saturday, shortly after the expected release of the details of the document.

Under the agreements, the committee, which will be headed on the Jordanian side by the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and on the Palestinian side by the deputy governor's counterpart from the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), will monitor and control banking and currency affairs in the occupied territories.

Jordanian banks which have already been licensed by the CBJ to reopen their branches in the occupied territories will also come under the committee's control and supervision. All future applications for licensing will be dealt with by the committee.

The sources said Jordan had expressed reservations over a no ceiling, free-trade arrangement between the Kingdom and the autonomous territories and but then dropped its reservations. The Kingdom had suggested a $300 million ceiling for trade, but the PLO could not meet that volume because of the Israeli-imposed curbs in the Paris agreement.

"We decided to keep trade open-ended in the initial stage," said the Jordanian source. "We hope to develop it further as we go along further in our economic cooperation."

There were no formal meetings on Thursday. Royal Court Chief Sharif Zayid Bin Shakir and the King's advisors held talks with the PLO delegation. No details were available on the discussions.

"We have forwarded the agreements to the PLO Executive Committee and are awaiting its response," said the Palestinian source. "We hope to receive the committee's endorsement anytime now."

"Hopefully, we could wind up the meetings early Saturday and release the details," added the source.

The self-rule authority will use the Jordanian dinar in all its dealing, he source said.

"The dinar will be the main currency in circulation in autonomous territories as well as the rest of the occupied lands," said the source.

All other currencies, including the Israeli shekel, will also be used, added the source.

The Paris agreement states that the shekel will be "a legal tender" in he autonomous territories.

Syrian Economic Delegation Arrives for Meetings

Al-'Imadi Heads Syrian Team

JN1405135694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 May 94

[Excerpt] A Syrian ministerial economic delegation arrived in Amman via the al-Ramtha border post today. The delegation includes Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, the minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr. Ahmad Nizam-al-Din, the minister of industry; and Muhammad al-Sharif, the Syrian Central Bank governor; as well as several specialists.

The delegation will represent Syria at the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Syrian ministerial committee due to open in Amman this evening. [passage omitted]

Al-Majali, Delegation Discuss Ties

JN1505165494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received at his office today Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, Syria's minister of economy and foreign trade and head of the Syrian delegation to the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Syrian ministerial committee. They discussed economic ties and means to bolster and improve them. They also discussed prospects for cooperation in the fields of trade and joint industry, as well as the issue of water. They stressed the need to cooperate and coordinate on this vital issue. They agreed in principle to prepare for the meetings of the Jordanian-Syrian higher committee.

The specialized committees emanating from the joint Jordanian-Syrian ministerial committee resumed their meetings at the Trade and Industry Ministry today to discuss relations of fraternal cooperation between the two countries in all fields, particularly the economic and trade fields. The committees also discussed a number of issues related to the development of economic cooperation and trade, particularly in the field of joint ventures, as well as the free zones and financial cooperation.

Dr. Hisham al-Khatib, minister of water and irrigation, received the Syrian economy and foreign trade minister and his delegation. They discussed cooperation and coordination between the two countries and means of

improving cooperation for the benefit of the two fraternal peoples. They discussed means to improve coordination in the field of the exchange of visits and expertise to benefit from the two sides' experience in the water and irrigation fields.

Supply Minister Radi Ibrahim also met today with Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, the Syrian economy and foreign trade minister, and Dr. Ahmad Nizam-al-Din, Syria's industry minister. They discussed trade ties between the two countries, particularly in the field of supply, and the possibility of Jordan purchasing Syrian fodder, wheat, beans, and lentils, especially because Syria can offer a surplus of these commodities at competitive prices and with good quality.

Transport Minister Adib Halasah today met with Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, the Syrian economy and foreign trade minister, and Ahmad Nizam-al-Din, Syria's industry minister. Following the meeting, the transport minister said he discussed with the two Syrian ministers the means of developing cooperation in the field of transportation, especially since there are some joint Jordanian-Syrian companies for land transportation and the transportation of goods between the two fraternal countries. There is also a joint maritime company based in the Syrian port of Latakia. Halasah explained that the Syrian minister of economy and foreign trade expressed a desire to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the industrial and trade fields.

Minutes of Committee Meetings Signed

JN1605105094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 May 94 p 1

[Text] Amman (Petra)—The Jordanian and Syrian governments Sunday [15 May] signed the minutes of meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Economic Committee which concluded in Amman earlier in the day. The documents were signed on the Jordanian side by Industry and Trade Minister Rima Khalaf and on the Syrian side by Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Muhammad al-'Imadi. Ms. Khalaf told reporters following the signing ceremony that the agreement between the two countries is considered the first step towards tackling the imbalance in trade between the two countries. Ms. Khalaf stressed that the committee's meetings dealt with some problems impeding the flow of Jordanian commodities to the Syrian market. The two countries, she said, have agreed to the need of revising lists of exchanged commodities. "We tackled at the committee's meetings issues relating to transport... and banking arrangements," said Ms. Khalaf adding that the two sides have agreed to set up experts committee to prepare a future work plan for Jordanian-Syrian economic cooperation. This plan will be later endorsed by the joint ministerial economic committee, she said.

U.S. Senate Bosnian Arms Resolution Welcomed

JN1405173094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] The Senate has expressed appreciation for the U.S. Senate's call for the lifting of the unjust arms embargo on the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In a cable in the name of the Senate to the president of the U.S. Senate, Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi expressed hope that this step will be followed by other steps until the embargo is lifted and this peace-loving nation can acquire the means for legitimate self-defense and the liberation of their national soil, against an all-out war of annihilation in which atrocities are committed under the gaze of the civilized world.

Al-Lawzi stressed that if the United States plays its leading role in deterring aggression and preventing it from making any regional gains, it will restore confidence in the world order and international law and the UN Charter. This will spare the world and future generations wars and disasters motivated by racial and religious bias and the oppression of the weak by the strong.

Paper: 'Not Much' Expected From Christopher Visit

JN1505083294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 May 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Art of the Possible"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's impending visit to Syria and Israel in a bid to rekindle their negotiating track comes amidst renewed speculation that not much could be expected to emerge from his latest shuttle diplomacy. Washington has in fact predicted no imminent breakthrough in the Israeli-Syrian peace talks even though it made sufficient hints to suggest that their bilateral negotiations have entered a new stage and could come to fruition later on. This suggests that enough progress was attained during the last trip by Christopher to warrant its continuation.

It would naturally be unreasonable to presume that the secretary of state is coming back to the region on a wild goose chase. But, it must be remembered that Damascus has also made an issue of the fact that it is still on the U.S. list of countries sponsoring "terrorism" and has injected this matter into its contacts with Washington. Presumably this subject will figure highly on the Syrian leaders' talks with Christopher when he arrives in the Syrian capital Sunday. President Hafiz al-Asad cannot be expected to accommodate Washington on its efforts to energise the Syrian-Israeli track as long as his country is viewed and treated as some kind of terrorist state.

Israel, on the other hand, seeks to know in advance the extent and scope of peace that Damascus would be willing to offer in return for Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In this vein, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has proposed a phased Israeli pullout

stretching over eight to ten years in order to test the workability of the Syrian peace intentions. Rabin has yet to confirm or deny, however, that Israel would be willing to withdraw completely from the occupied Syrian territory at the end of the tunnel.

President al-Asad insists, and rightly so, on receiving a clear commitment from Rabin that full withdrawal from the heights would be in the cards in return for normalisation of relations between the two countries. What this complex situation boils down to is similar to the vexing egg-and-chicken syndrome where one set of questions begs the other. This is where Christopher may help by attempting to offer simultaneous answers to concurrent questions.

Bridging the gap between the two countries is still possible, and that, we guess, is why the secretary of state is coming back so soon to the region.

Minister: On-Land Inspections To Begin 'Soon'

JN1505194094 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 15 May 94

[From the "News At Ten" program"]

[Text] Jordan said it expects a land-inspection regime to begin soon in al-'Aqabah once approved by the United Nations Sanctions Committee. Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs and Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani said the new on-land inspection regime will save Jordan millions of dollars in losses. He told Jordan Television that Jordan has received a message from the U.S. Administration confirming the agreement on the new regime.

[Begin al-'Anani recording in Arabic with English subtitles] A message was received from the U.S. Administration via the U.S. State Department confirming what has been agreed upon; that the U.S. Government has accepted to replace the inspection which was carried out by multilateral forces, particularly the U.S. vessels, in the Straits of Tiran for the vessels heading toward al-'Aqabah with an on-land inspection in al-'Aqabah. Therefore, this arrangement will answer the United Nations' desire to maintain the inspection in implementation of the economic sanctions against Iraq, and, at the same time, directly affect the Jordanian economy in the sense that it will save large expenses. We know that since Resolution 661 was issued in 1990 and until now, Jordan lost some $1.2 billion in expenses. [end recording]

Britain Says 'Never Part' of al-'Aqabah Blockade

JN1605110194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 May 94 p 10

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Rana Husayni]

[Text] Amman—Britain did not take part in the U.S.-led blockade of al-'Aqabah and had always urged its allies to end the inspection of ships in the Gulf of Aqaba, James Watt, the charge d'affairs at the British embassy, said Sunday [15 May].

"My country has always been pressing for the ban to be lifted," Mr. Watt told a business luncheon.

On April 25, the United States said it has accepted a Jordanian proposal on a new land-based system for verifying compliance with the international sanctions, and His Majesty King Husayn said the al-'Aqabah siege was being lifted, after meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in London.

Mr. Christopher told reporters at a joint press conference with King Husayn that the U.S. had accepted the proposal to have the London-based Lloyds Register verify al-'Aqabah-bound cargo once it is unloaded in the port instead of the sea-inspections, which have caused the Kingdom enormous economic losses.

The American decision was followed by a French announcement it was withdrawing from the international forces inspecting the al-'Aqabah-bound shipping.

The U.S. confirmation that the siege was being lifted came on May 9, when Washington officially informed Jordan of its acceptance of the Kingdom's proposal.

"We were never part of the inspection groups, and Britain never supported the inspection from the beginning," Mr. Watt said.

Addressing a group of business people, Mr. Watt said the new process was a sign of optimism for the Jordanian economy, adding that Jordan has become a market which all industries are looking at.

"We are beginning to see some signs of hope after the peace process, and people are looking towards a bright future, making Jordan a very attractive market," he added.

Mr. Watt said Britain's policy was to encourage he Jordanian market, and to open up other markets in the region, "including Israel."

Christopher Tour Faces 'Risks and Difficulties'

NC1505182894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Damascus this evening on a new shuttle tour aimed at advancing the peace process, which is being obstructed because of Israel's intransigent positions. On his previous visit, the U.S. secretary left Damascus with queries about the Israeli proposals that he had conveyed to Syria. The proposals, which called for gradual Israeli withdrawal at long intervals, were rejected by Syria, which stressed the need for a full and comprehensive withdrawal to achieve a just and lasting peace.

The chief of U.S. diplomacy knows that his current tour will not be any better than his previous ones if he fails to bring new Israeli ideas or acceptance of full withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon. U.S. State Department Spokesman Michael McCurry stressed prior to his chief's tour that Washington expects the peace process to be tough, suggesting that Christopher will find it difficult to push ahead the Syrian-Israeli track as long as negotiations continue to move in a vicious circle.

It is clear that if Israel wants to apply the Gaza-Jericho model to the other tracks, then it will not be able to infiltrate the Syrian track, which is totally different from the others, especially the Palestinian one. Informed sources point out that Christopher's tour of the region is surrounded by risks and difficulties and will not achieve its objectives as long as the U.S. Administration does not pressure Israel into accepting full withdrawal in exchange for full peace.

If Christopher ends his visit to Damascus stressing that his country will play an effective role in advancing the peaceful settlement—and this is exactly what Damascus is expecting from him—then Syrian officials will not say more than they did the last time: that they are awaiting his answers. If Christopher's tour fails this time, and doubts about its results came through the U.S. State Department spokesman who said that Christopher does not expect a major achievement from any of his upcoming tours, then this will shake the bases on which the Madrid peace conference was launched and that the Geneva summit between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton emphasized, namely, adopting international resolutions to implement the Israeli withdrawal. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a Syrian media source stressed today that any peace not based on comprehensive peace will be doomed to failure. The source said Syria is not the PLO and is not interested in peace outside the framework of international resolutions and the U.S. initiative, which is based on the principle of exchanging land for peace. The Syrian source said Syria is expecting the American partner to play a responsible role, put things on the right track, and help Tel Aviv rulers decide to withdraw, dismantle settlements, and implement UN Security Council resolutions. [passage omitted]

Differences Among Leadership Detailed

NC1305184194 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 9 May 94 p 3

["Weekly Events" review by Fu'ad Da'bul]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] As peace knocks on Lebanese and Arab doors, the country's top three leaders [president, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, and prime minister] are in disagreement. The only area of agreement left among the top three officials is a common, but passive, desire to keep their differences at a manageable level.

At last week's Lebanese-Syrian summit the three leaders discussed the government situation and the need to maintain a united front in the peace process. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad said that this issue is up to them and that they should do what they deem necessary and useful.

It seems that President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Speaker Nabih Birri are in cahoots against Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. The president and speaker believe that the cabinet needs to be reshuffled to achieve political equilibrium in the country. They base their judgment on the country's current needs, not those of a time when a then-popular prime minister formed the cabinet amid public support and hopes for change.

As soon as a reshuffle was proposed, President al-Hirawi insisted that he should have a say in the new cabinet. Speaker Birri requested that the Finance Ministry return to the Shiite sect from al-Hariri's control. The prime minister, who kept the finance portfolio for himself, is letting Minister of State Fu'ad Sinyurah run the ministry.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister al-Hariri wants to address the issue of Christian representation in the government. He seeks a reshuffle that would satisfy Patriarch Sfayr and ensure the participation of the National Bloc Party [led by Paris-based politician Raymond Iddah]. A government blessed by Bkirki and containing ministers hand picked by Raymond Iddah, al-Hariri reasons, will end "dissatisfaction" among Christians. This view contradicts President al-Hirawi's view. The latter sees himself as the only person entitled to name Christian ministers.

Irked by a constant barrage of criticism from his own ministers and a stream of leaks concerning a cabinet reshuffle, Prime Minister al-Hariri went into "seclusion" [unofficial discontinuation of public duties], leaving a question on all lips: Where is the country heading? Will President al-Hirawi, aided by Speaker Birri, gain the upper hand, or will al-Hariri continue to fight for "survival?"

The answer is anybody's guess. However, according to available information, al-Hariri is determined to go on fighting for his government and own political future. The prime minister has a moral weight to reckon with and is

determined not to leave an office he once walked into triumphantly without a fight. But he is faced with a president who also has a strong hand to play.

According to our information, with al-Hariri facing a government crisis with no end in sight, he may have to stick to the "seclusion" tactic first invented by the late Prime Minister Rashid Karami in 1969.

Sources close to al-Hariri say that the prime minister is determined to continue his seclusion until the ministers who attacked him back off. Al-Hariri plans to go on a hunting trip to Zimbabwe on 18 May. He is intent to brandish the sword of seclusion in the face of opponents who thought it would be easy to run him out of office. These opponents recently claimed that al-Hariri's star is waning and that his days in office are numbered.

According to our information, al-Hariri has told his visitors that he refuses to be defeated by a "knockout," declaring that he will take the blows and pay them back with interest.

President al-Hirawi, meanwhile, told B'abda's visitors that he has a constitutional responsibility to bear and that he is above petty calculations and is determined to uphold the Constitution and promote a spirit of reconciliation. Lebanon deserves to have durable reconciliation and lasting unity and the president is determined to cement both as the country buckles down for the task of making peace, al-Hirawi's visitors say.

President al-Hirawi wants to keep his differences with prime minister al-Hariri secret. His public position is that he is above internal disputes and cares only for the country's unity and safety. Unity and understanding among the three top officials are needed for domestic as well as external peace, al-Hirawi was cited as saying.

Knowledgeable observers say that Syria will not allow the Lebanese temple to come tumbling down on its allies. It keeps a bottle of "medicine" and a spoon at hand to treat the "second republic" at the first sign of ailment.

Prime Minister al-Hariri's Activities Reported

Consults Ministers, Leaves Mansion

NC1405083494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left his mansion in Quraytim a short while ago for an undisclosed destination. Earlier today, he received [former] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and ministers Michel Iddih, Anwar al-Khalil, and Fu'ad Sinyurah and discussed with them the current developments in Lebanon.

Departs for Damascus Talks

NC1405091794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 May 94

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left Beirut at 1100 today for Damascus for talks with senior Syrian officials. [passage omitted]

Returns to Beirut

NC1405184394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut from Damascus at 2030 today after holding more than three hours of talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Before his departure from Damascus, Prime Minister al-Hariri said: It is natural for us to visit President al-Asad at every phase of our deadlines and to consult with him on matters of interest to the two brotherly countries. He added: Syria takes great credit for Lebanon's stability, a credit that is recognized by every Lebanese who is interested in national detente.

Al-Hariri added: My meeting with President al-Asad today was to assert these feelings and to thank him for his initiatives for Lebanon. It was also an opportunity to review the march toward stability in Lebanon and to coordinate the two countries' stances on the peace process.

Requests Cabinet Meeting

NC1405192294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office has issued the following statement: Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has asked the cabinet to hold an extraordinary session at the government house in al-Sana'i [in Beirut] at 1700 on Monday, 16 May.

Phones al-Hirawi, Birri

NC1405194294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] This evening Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri phoned President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri to brief them on the results of his visit to Damascus and his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

U.S. Secretary of State, Delegation Arrive

Papers Preview Visit

JN1505093994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 15 May 94

[Press review]

[Text] Today's press commentaries focus on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's new regional tour, which is aimed at boosting and activating the stalemated peace process.

In its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says: With the beginning of Christopher's new tour of the region, it must be reasserted that Syria adheres to peace in accordance with the bases that were agreed upon in Madrid. Syria will accept no alternative to the bases and principles provided for by the UN resolutions and the laws of international legitimacy. If Syria insists on dismissing partial solutions, this is because its peaceful orientation proceeds from one basic axiom—that unless peace is just, comprehensive, and based on sound bases of equality and equilibrium, it will not be a genuine and firm peace.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that Syria wants a peace that ensures the principles and values of truth and justice and ends any form of injustice, occupation, and aggression. Syria wants a peace that restores rights to their rightful owners and enables the region to enjoy true security and stability. Expressing its constant readiness to cooperate to achieve a peace of this kind, Syria places all those concerned, especially the United States, before their historic responsibilities. It asks them to honor their promises and assurances and to support the resolutions and laws of international legitimacy, which are disregarded by Israel.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Christopher is coming to the region in a new effort to activate the peace process, especially on the Syrian- Israeli track. However, Israel, through Foreign Minister Peres, went ahead of events and cast doubts about any possibility of achieving any success in this tour.

AL-BA'TH says: In his latest statement, a few hours before his new tour of the region, the U.S. secretary of state did not show a great deal of optimism about his continuous mission to boost and activate the stalemated peace process.

AL-BA'TH adds: When the U.S. secretary says that he does not hope for much from this tour, this means that he has prejudged the results without giving any reasons. Reviewing the reasons that may have made Christopher prejudge the results, the paper says that the reasons are innumerable. The paper reviews Israel's recent stands and attempts to portray itself as moderate and flexible. It says that during Christopher's recent tour of the region, the U.S. secretary conveyed [to Syria] so-called Israeli ideas on withdrawal from the Golan. The ideas were listed as concessions, directly linked with conditions that have nothing to do with the essence of the peace process.

AL-BA'TH adds: Regarding Israel's alleged concessions, it can be stressed that the term concessions is a completely rejected political fallacy that the Rabin government is trying to peddle in order to mislead domestic and foreign public opinion. This is a argument must be rejected because a concession is made when someone concedes something that he possesses. But, since Israel, the paper says, does not possess an iota of the Golan nor any inch of the soil of the occupied Arab territories, it has no right to use the term concessions anywhere on any issue.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: Against this backdrop, it is possible to understand the judgment that Christopher issued on the eve of his visit to the region. It is the judgment of someone who knows the Israeli mentality, which insists on obstructing the peace process. For hopes for progress to become greater, this situation should be corrected and restored to its logical context. In this case, logical context is commitment to the essence and principles of the peace process.

On the same subject, TISHRIN notes that Syria is not ready to deal with any Israeli proposals that do not show an explicit commitment to full withdrawal from the Golan within a reasonable and acceptable period of time. The paper adds: Syria has long experience with Israel's evasive and intransigent policy. Therefore, in view of Syria's constant stands, Israel must have realized that partial, phased settlements are not possible and that Syria will not relinquish its territory and rights or Arab territories and rights. Simply speaking, Syria believes in a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

TISHRIN says: A just, comprehensive peace is one of Syria's strategic objectives. Yet, this does not at all mean that Syria will relinquish the essence of this peace or accept fragile agreements that do not usher in a complete removal of the occupation. The paper says that if all parties have the right to raise their security concerns, then Syria's security is represented primarily in the removal of the occupation and providing peace and security for others, especially since it is a peace that will be guaranteed by the international community. The paper believes that achieving substantive progress on the Syrian-Israeli track does not require all the complications and thorny issues raised by Israel. Syria is proposing a full peace in return for full Israeli withdrawal. Peace with Syria means a comprehensive Middle East peace. This is because there is no peace at all without Syria's participation.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: It is high time the United States translated the role of a full, fair, impartial partner into reality. This is would be forcing the Israeli rulers to make the sound decision without which peace is impassible; namely, full withdrawal from the Golan and the other occupied Arab territories.

Radio Previews Christopher Tour

JN1505151594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1138 GMT 15 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will arrive in Damascus today to start a new tour designed to give a boost to the peace process. Undoubtedly, Secretary Christopher will find in Damascus what he found in previous tours, that is, a frank Syrian position on the peace process, a definite commitment to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, a comprehensive view of the just peace, and a sincere will to establish peace in a region that has seen all kinds of aggression and expansionist policies. He will sense an infinite seriousness in dealing with the ideas and proposals aiming to implement the UN resolutions and to implement, seriously and practically, the bases of the Madrid peace conference.

It is also expected that when he moves to Israel, Secretary Christopher will find there the same position he found in previous tours, that is, an ambiguous Israeli concept of the peace process; an evasion of, or even contempt for, UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338; negligence of the spirit of the U.S. initiative; an incomplete view of peace; and a sincere will to squander available opportunities, waste time and drain the Madrid conference of its content and the peace process of its objectives in order to impose the peace Israel wants, tailored according to the expansionist schemes and aggressive intentions known throughout the entire world.

The question that comes to mind in the light of this fact is: How can the U.S. position, in other words the position of the U.S. sponsor, be reconciled with the policy of procrastination and obstruction Israel is pursuing? How can this dilemma be escaped; a dilemma Israel wants to be a dilemma for the U.S. Administration itself? If Israel succeeds in making this a dilemma for the United States, it will be able to subdue the U.S. initiative and the mediator's role. This would serve its own interests in the peace deal it wants, without taking into account the credibility of the U.S. position or U.S. interests in a region, which is required to enjoy peace.

As it receives Secretary Christopher today, Syria is stressing that its position supports the just and comprehensive peace which can achieve complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, on top of which is the occupied Golan Heights; which can return rights to their rightful owners; and which can establish objective conditions for a genuine stability that would be accepted and even defended by the people, and for a peace based on international legitimacy and its resolutions as the terms of reference. These must be adopted in order to fortify the awaited peace and entrench the desired justice.

Syria believes any distortion of this concept or twisting of these facts, which are known to the entire world, means a departure from the right course and the start of a journey down intricate roads that will lead the region to anywhere but peace.

Christopher, Delegation Arrive

JN1505160294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] At 1805 [1505 GMT] today, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the head of the United States department at the Foreign Ministy, the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Al-Asad Receives Christopher

JN1605052994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher yesterday evening.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace process.

The attendees discussed the Middle East peace process. President al-Asad listened to what Christopher conveyed and presented Syria's viewpoint on the peace process and its objectives.

It was agreed to resume the talks when Christopher returns to Damascus.

Immediate Israeli Response Urged

JN1605155194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: President Hafiz al-Asad presented to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Syria's viewpoint on the peace process and its goal. In light of this, the U.S. secretary of state has stressed that the negotiations have entered a new and important stage. They also agreed to resume the talks when Christopher returns to Damascus. This means that the United States is exerting extensive efforts and is also eager to take steps that will help the parties involved march together on the long road to peace.

There is no doubt that Syria welcomes the U.S. efforts and hopes the U.S. secretary of state's tour will produce true and constructive progress to push the peace process forward. Syria also reaffirms the constant principles of a just and comprehensive solution and the basic requirements and necessary priorities of the peace process. Syria is also eager to achieve the full goals of the peace process,

and will spare no effort to render the U.S. secretary of state's tour successful in order to rescue the peace process from the current stalemate it is facing as a result of the many Israeli obstacles, which have become traps and mines threatening the peace process and pushing its toward a deadlock.

Any fair observer will not have much difficulty in understanding the nature of the Syrian position. Syria's position toward the peace process is very clear, and not much effort is needed to explain Syria's role and constant principles. The entire world is aware of Syria's credibility and its sound policy toward the peace process. It also understands Syria's correct position and its principles, derived from the resolutions of international legitimacy and from the need to establish justice and protect the region from shocks, trouble, and tension in order to secure a total Israeli withdrawal, stability, security, tranquility, and peace in the region.

Syria opened the way for a real, just, and comprehensive peace by agreeing to the U.S. initiative based on the principle of land for peace and the resolutions of international legitimacy, which stipulate the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories. During the sixth round of the Washington talks, Syria presented a paper of principles that was branded as comprehensive and balanced.

Syria has formulated its clear and serious position toward peace by adopting the principle of total withdrawal in return for comprehensive peace. This is a practical and real translation of the principle of returning the land to its Arab owners. In other words, there will be no peace with occupation, and there will be no peace other than just and comprehensive peace based on regaining rights. This is the honorable peace to which Syria adheres and seeks.

The necessary condition for the success of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour lies in Israel's immediate response to carry out a total withdrawal from the Golan and return it together with its citizens and every inch of land to the motherland, Syria. Proceeding from this, it is Israel that is required to show goodwill to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

Southern Yemeni Official Gives Statement on Crisis

JN1305130094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 May 94

[Statement by Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, Yemeni oil minister and envoy of Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, to President al-Asad; date not given; from "Weekly File" program—recorded]

[Text] We as Yemenis, as well as the brother Syrians and all Arabs, regret this event and these problems. The crisis continued for more than nine months and it was possible to solve it politically within the framework of the Political Forces Dialogue Committee, especially after this committee succeeded in drafting the pledge and accord document, which was considered the document of national consensus. It was possible to begin implementing this document and consequently resolve the crisis and reactivate the work of various bodies. However, regrettably, what happened was the opposite of what we expected. At a time when the various Yemeni groups were signing the agreement, the al-'Amaliqah forces began the battle against the Abyan and Aden Governorates. Consequently, it was clear to us that there were those who did not wish to implement the agreement, particularly the military forces in northern Yemen. The next step was the liquidation of units that moved from the south to the north, beginning with the 5th Brigade of the Sufyan Guards and then the 3d Armored Brigade in 'Imran. The battle then spread on a large scale to Dhamar and raged on five axes in the direction of Aden.

The war was imposed on the Socialist Party and, regrettably, the nationalist Yemeni forces. However, the political leadership in the Socialist Party, in coordination with the Political Forces Dialogue Committee, continues to announce to all Yemeni, Arab, and international public the need to stop the war before anything else and return to dialogue. The language of (?force) at the present international circumstances cannot solve any problem; dialogue is the right way to solve political problems. The battle is now taking place on five axes. Yesterday, a new axis was opened at Bab el Mandeb. This is detrimental both to Yemen and to international navigation. I heard from news agencies that the People's Congress has forces about 3 km from Aden. This is untrue and the northern and southern forces are engaged in battles 100 km from Aden.

Yemen's Basindwah Conveys Salih's Message, Departs

JN1305155294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah at al-Rawdah Palace at 1230 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the audience. Basindwah conveyed to the president a message from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council. Talks dealt with Yemeni developments.

The president voiced Syria's concern over the bloody events in fraternal Yemen and renewed Syria's appeal for the Yemeni brothers to renounce fighting and resort to resolving differences by brotherly dialogue, out of concern for Yemeni unity and the safety and security of the Yemeni people.

The Yemeni foreign minister left Damascus at 1630 today. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', a number of Foreign Ministry officials, and the Yemeni embassy staff in Damascus.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Basindwah said: The aim of my visit to Damascus was to convey a message from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his brother President Hafiz al-Asad. Today I was honored to meet with the president. I conveyed the message and briefed him on the latest Yemeni developments. I found the president fully understanding and concerned about Yemeni security and independence. Basindwah added: I found President Hafiz al-Asad extremely concerned about Yemeni unity. No wonder, President Hafiz al-Asad is one of the pioneers of Arab unity. Yemeni unity is a national achievement and a pan-Arab gain.

Syrians Evacuated From Yemen Return Home

JN1405103194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 May 94

[Excerpt] At President Hafiz al-Asad's instructions, two Syrian airplanes carrying the third and fourth group of families of Syrian teachers working in sisterly Yemen arrived at Damascus International Airport yesterday afternoon. They were welcomed at the airport by Education Minister Muhammad Ghassan al-Halabi, Transportation Minister Dr. Mufid 'Abd-al-Karim, and senior officials from the Education and Transport Ministries and the Syrian Arab Airlines. [passage omitted]

Arab League Chief Arrives for Coordination Meeting

To Chair Coordination Committee

JN1405205194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 14 May 94

[Excerpts] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League, arrived in Damascus this evening for the 26th round of the Arab organizations and funds higher coordination committee of joint Arab action set to begin at 1000, Monday [16 May], the day after tomorrow. [passage omitted]

In a statement to SANA, 'Abd-al-Majid said he was happy to be in Damascus to chair the 26th round of the coordination committee, which reflects common Arab action. The coordination committee, he said, will look at the role of Arab committees working within the Arab League's framework.

The Damascus round, he added, will work in conjunction with Arab organizations to extend all possible assistance to joint Arab action.

Comments on Yemen Crisis

NC1505093494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Damascus, 15 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has stated that the League has proposed a peaceful overture for resolving the Yemeni crisis and halting the continuing deterioration in the situation there. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, who is currently visiting Syria, said that the message he sent to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih yesterday constitutes an initiative and contains elements that would guarantee an end to the crisis.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Damascus, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the first thing that must be done is end the fighting between the brothers there, noting that the Arab League is holding intensive consultations and contacts with a number of Yemeni leaders on holding a national dialogue instead of continuing the internecine fighting. He refused to disclose the details of the initiative now, noting that replying to the initiative is now in the hands of the Yemeni leaders themselves. He stressed that the Arab League is eager to see the delegation now in Yemen succeed in its mission. The League, he said, has decided to consider its mission in Yemen to be open-ended. In the meantime, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid today received a lengthy report on the situation and developments in Yemen.

Meets With Al-Shar'

JN1505152794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Arab League Secretary General Dr.'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. The meeting was attended by Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister; 'Adnan 'Imran, assistant Arab League secretary general for political affairs; Ahmad 'Adil, assistant Arab League secretary general; and head of the Arab League secretary general's office.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the Arab situation, especially the regrettable bloody events in Yemen. They both called for a cessation of fighting and brotherly arbitration to spare the blood of the fraternal Yemeni people.

Talks also dealt with the Arab League's activities in both the Arab and international fields and developments in the peace process.

Iran

Commentary on Christopher Visit to Syria, Israel

LD1505122094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 15 May 94

[Unattributed commentary: "Christopher's Visit to Syria"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrives in Damascus today. He will be meeting with Zionist authorities tomorrow after his talks with Syrian officials. During his visit Christopher will convey the views of the Zionist regime's authorities to Syrian officials and take their response back to Tel Aviv. The aim of Christopher's visit is to bring closer the two sides' positions on the Zionist regime's proposal for a withdrawal from the Golan Heights by shuttling between Damascus and Tel Aviv.

During an earlier visit to the region by Christopher, the Zionist regime proposed promoting a spirit of compromise in the region. The proposal tried to eliminate the obstacles in the way of talks with Syria. Syria has linked any talks with the Zionist regime to that regime's withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights. The Zionist regime has proposed a gradual withdrawal from the Golan Heights, with the withdrawal carried out over a 10 year period rather than in a single step. Syrian officials responded by describing the proposal as a plan for postponing rather than resolving the issue. Stressing their constant stance, they emphatically called for a swift and total withdrawal from the Golan region.

At the moment, after the signing of the accord between 'Arafat and the Zionist regime, officials of the Zionist regime and the White House expect Syria to display more flexibility about starting talks and announce its agreement with the proposals that have been put forward. Syria, however, taking into account the expansionist nature of the Zionist regime, is doubtful about the proposed plans, which defer a withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

The Zionist regime has always discussed expanding its borders by making pretexts such as maintaining its security and self-defense, and raises the issue as a vital and strategic objective. That is why it is futile to hope for that regime's withdrawal at a time when it has received all the concessions.

On the other hand, although the U.S. is ostensibly exerting pressure in a responsible way for talks to begin between the Zionist regime and the Syrian authorities, the Syrians are not sure that after the talks the necessary pressure on the Zionist regime will be exerted for its withdrawal from the Golan Heights, even for a gradual withdrawal. That is why the Syrians are as doubtful of the U.S. guarantees that any agreements will be implemented as they are suspicious of Israel professed willingness to carry out its undertakings.

The liberation of the occupied areas is among Syria's vital objectives. For reasons of security as well as of honor, Syria is compelled not to agree to any postponement of the liberation of the occupied territories.

Yemen Crisis Allows U.S. To Justify Gulf Presence

NC1405085094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 14 May 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] Even though the war in Yemen has entered its second week, it has not brought any military gains for the two sides. Yesterday, the north Yemen officials rejected the south Yemen proposals for an immediate cease-fire and the establishment of a national salvation government. In turn, they asked Salim al-Bid and other southern officials to surrender.

According to an official spokesman in Sanaa, the capital of north Yemen, the cease-fire proposal by the Yemeni Socialist Party—that is, the southern officials—is not new. On the other hand, reports from the south indicate that the war is accomplishing nothing, in view of the balance of the military forces.

Yesterday, following a clash that took place near the mouth of the Red Sea, the southern officials issued a military communique reporting the downing of three northern warplanes. This clash occurred on the former border of the two Yemens in the vicinity of the Bab al-Mandab strait. According to the southern forces, the pilot of one of the planes is alive and has been taken captive.

Despite the fact that the role of foreign elements in fomenting and intensifying the crisis in Yemen has been repeatedly hinted at by neutral political circles, the two warring sides in Yemen continue the war—with heavy human and material losses—with no thought to the adverse repercussions of their actions.

The Yemeni nation should be aware that in this illogical war, the sides involved continue to be the losers. It is the elements behind the scenes who succeed in attaining their coveted interests.

Political experts believe that in the sensitive region of which Yemen is a part, all kinds of crises and unrest are a justification for the continued U.S. military presence. This presence, which has caused unease in many regional countries after the Iraqi crisis had subsided, needs new justifications. Therefore, the people of Yemen... [commentary ends in midsentence and music begins]

Editorial Decries 'Repetitive' U.S. Accusations

NC1505192094 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 10 May 94 p 3

[Editorial: "Dictated by America!"]

[Text] If Washington were to use propaganda to justify its military presence in the region and to sell more weapons to the Arabs, what should it say? This is the question that Washington officials are still asking themselves and they are coming up with the same stale reply.

To attain its objectives in the region, the United States has to continue to project the Islamic Republic of Iran as the regional bad guy. It has to depict the region as tense, to intimidate the southern shaykhdoms, and to warn them as if they are being threatened by Iran. Therefore, they should rely on the United States to help protect them. To do this it is necessary to launch propaganda regarding Iran's military capability so that the Arabs will allocate more petrodollars to purchase more arms to protect their security.

These remarks seem a trifle repetitive, but they are true. However, we are surprised and regret that these same remarks have worked on those on the other side of the Persian Gulf and that the United States continues to milk the regional shaykhs with this repetitive and deceitful propaganda.

This propaganda by Washington is continuing, but our question today is: Why don't the Arabs think about their own interests and continue to be duped by this hollow and repetitious propaganda? It is amazing that these Arab shaykhs do not even ask themselves: Who endangered the security of the region? Who instigated Saddam to initiate an eight-year war against Iran? Who has humiliated the Arabs before Israel? Who has made the Persian Gulf waters unsafe? Who plundered the wealth of the Arabs in two Persian Gulf wars? Who has eyes on the wealth and oil of the Arabs today? Who is demanding greater contempt and humiliation for the Arabs against Israel and formulating plans for this purpose?

These are questions that are not difficult for the regional shaykhs to answer. However, they do not even seem to have the permission to understand these facts!

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs Robert Pelletreau repeated these U.S. accusations against Iran in the presence of Arab representatives of the mass media in Abu Dhabi, and it seems that no one had the sense to ask Pelletreau to stop these repetitive remarks and say something new that should at least have some elements of reality.

A while later, the Arab mass media acted as if it had received fresh grist for its propaganda mills and repeated the same accusations verbatim along with whatever had been dictated to them by the U.S. officials. Thus, they demonstrated that they have no willpower or opinion and do not even realize their own interests.

In its latest edition, the 'UKAZ newspaper that is affiliated with the Zionist circles of Saudi Arabia and is directly instructed by the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, resorted to exposing the so-called nuclear program of the Islamic Republic of Iran. To make its allegations appear to be authentic, it presented astoundingly astronomical sums as Iran's nuclear expenditure. It appears that the entire text had been dictated verbatim by the CIA rapporteur at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh.

It is regrettable that the regional shaykhs have fallen into this vortex and cannot see these prospects very clearly with their astonished eyes. The fact that the Saudi publications take their orders from the U.S. Embassy is not a source of pride for the Saudis. It is not to their benefit to grovel so much and to show how eager they are to take dictation from the Americans. Perhaps it would have been better to have kept up appearances and have waited awhile before 'UKAZ published Pelletreau's repetitive remarks dictated by the United States. Then it would not have appeared to be so servile.

Daily Protests Visit by U.S. Journalists

NC1405101194 Paris AFP in English 0737 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 14 (AFP)—A radical Islamic daily on Saturday [14 May] protested against a visit by a group of U.S. newspaper editors and said it would boycott a meeting between the journalists and representatives of the Iranian press.

The chief-editors of 13 US newspapers and magazines arrived here earlier this week on a three-day visit to "raise their understanding of present-day Iran," a U.S. journalist told AFP.

They have already held several meetings with representatives of the Iranian media and were to meet Saturday with the editors-in-chief of the press in Tehran.

"It is not clear who invited the American editors to Iran and why the Culture Ministry has arranged a meeting between them and Iranian chief-editors," said JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, a daily close to Islamic hardliners.

The paper warned that the meeting could be a "ploy" by Washington to try and reopen talks with Iran through an indirect channel.

Tehran and Washington broke diplomatic ties in 1980 after radical students stormed the U.S. Embassy here and took its staff hostage.

The United States has called several times for direct negotiations, but the two sides have yet to make a breakthrough. Islamic hardliners are fiercely opposed to any talks with Washington.

Reaction Continues to Alleged Embassy Bugging

Ayatollah Condemns UK Government

LD1305120394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] In today's Tehran Friday prayers, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani condemned the British Government for installing a bugging device in the Iranian Embassy in London.

The interim Friday prayers leader of Tehran referred to Britain's record in espionage activities and said: This recent espionage activity in London against the Islamic Republic of Iran demonstrates the continuation of plots hatched by arrogant countries against the Islamic revolution; but such conspiracies are, as ever, doomed to fail, thanks to the vigilance and alertness of the Muslim people of Iran.

On the great hajj congregation, he said: The gathering of a cross-section of one billion world Muslims at pilgrimage is a suitable opportunity to review various political, social, and economic problems of the world of Islam and their solutions so that, upon their return to their countries, Muslims could implement those solutions.

He said the designation of a day for the support of Bosnian Muslims by the eminent leader's representative office was a correct use of the hajj to draw the attention of Muslims to problems of the world of Islam.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani praised the people for participating in the international book exhibition and said: That matter shows that the people of Iran care about cultural issues.

More Embassies Suspect Bugging

LD1305134694 Tehran IRNA in English 1251 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] London, May 13, IRNA—Following the disclosure of the British Government's bugging of the Iranian Embassy here, other ambassadors in London are skeptical of the security of their embassy vis-a-vis the government's espionage activities.

An Asian diplomat here has told his Iranian counterpart that there is a high likelihood that the British intelligence has carried out similar activities regarding the other embassies.

"We intend to carry out a thorough search in our embassy for sure," he said.

He noted that embassies of the Islamic countries are more exposed to the British eavesdropping due to the London's concern over the increasing growth of Islamism in Britain.

"Even the ambassadors of the European countries who are concerned over the issue, sarcastically ask the British politicians in their meetings as in what part of their embassies the British Government installed its eavsedropping devices," said the diplomat.

Western Media Silence Decried

LD1305154294 Tehran IRNA in English 1453 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Vienna, May 13, IRNA—Western media's silence on bugging of the Iranian Embassy in London by the agents of British intelligence service is another indication to their double-standards.

The Western press, which a couple of weeks ago, reported on the false British allegations of Iran-IRA contacts in their headlines, have now apparently decided to ignore the bugging of Iranian Embassy completely.

This is not the first time that the so-called free press agencies of Western countries have collectively decided to keep quiet on issues embarrassing to so-called Western democracies.

The low-key reporting of atrocities committed in Bosnia when compared proportionally, the genocide of over 2,800 Panamanians resulting from U.S. invasion, the war crimes committed by British forces against Argentine POWs in the Falkland Islands, and the mysterious killing of Rwandan and Burundi presidents are just small reminders to those with common sense.

'Abundant Problems' Hinder Ties

LD1305203294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 13 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The discovery of a transmitter equipped with a microphone inside a wall in the Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] embassy in London has led to the disclosure of Britain's intelligence and spying operations, know as ME6 [as heard] against the IRI. Iran's deputy foreign minister in European and US affairs, Mr. Mahmoud Va'ezi, in an exclusive interview with the Central News Bureau of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was broadcast on the nationwide television channel last night, exposed further details of the ME6 spying operations against Iran's embassy in London and considered it as the British statesmen weakness in Irano-British relations.

Iran's deputy foreign minister also said: Following the disclosure of this issue, the British charge d'affaires in Tehran was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and Iran's severe protest was conveyed to the British Government.

In response to the question as to what impact will these kinds of anti-diplomatic acts leave on the two countries relations, Mr. Va'ezi said: Irano-British relations are not

normal for they have been faced with abundant problems. The main issue is the existence of certain (?roles) in the British Government. Mr. Va'ezi's direct reference to this issue that problems in the Irano-British relations arise from groupings inside the Conservative British government is significant in view of problems which have led to weakness in John Major's government. It shows that the British statesmen have problems in following a coordinated policy in relation to Iran. Bringing up such claims as links between Iran and the Irish strugglers, which was categorically denied by Iran, further discredited John Major's government. On this basis, spying operations in a foreign embassy, which against all the international accepted standards and diplomatic practice, will put further pressure on the Conservative British government.

Some analysts consider John Major's weakened position as the factor behind such controvertial operations by the ME6 and they argue that the British officials' silence indicates difference of views and crisis which exist in the British Government. Nevertheless, since the Iranian Government is waiting for the British Government's answer, the British statesmen are unlikely to keep their silence. Hence they have to explain about their political mistakes.

Daily: UK Violated Vienna Accord

LD1405095594 Tehran IRNA in English 0918 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA—A morning English daily here Saturday [14 May] commented on the installation of bugging devices in the Iranian Embassy in London saying that the British Government faces the two charges of espionage and violation of the terms of the 1961 Vienna Convention regarding the concept of national sovereignty.

The Iranian Government's disclosure about this illegal act was "coincident with the ballyhoo started by the British Government on the alleged Iranian financial assistance for the Irish Republican Army (IRA)," noted the paper.

It argued that the Irish Americans were the greatest supporters of the IRA and their financial and logistic assistance to IRA, with the green light from the C.I.A., was considered normal and acceptable in international political circles.

While the statesmen in London found it prudent to condone any differences they might have with the U.S. over the issue of IRA, they apparently felt it was necessary to transfer their internal crisis to other parts of the world, said the paper.

Urging Iran's Government to continue to exert pressure until British authorities were ready to accept responsibilty, the paper concluded "we should not allow such glaring cases of violation of the country's national sovereignty be easily forgotten."

IRNA Issues Correction

LD1405110894

[Editorial report] Tehran IRNA in English at 1056 GMT on 14 May transmits a service message noting that the name of the English-language daily whose comment accused the United Kingdom of violating the Vienna convention was "mistakenly dropped." The story was carried by the TEHRAN TIMES.

'Legal Channels' To Be Pursued

LD1405172494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Mr. Manuchehr Mottaki, the deputy foreign minister for legal, consular, and parliamentary affairs said in an interview with our reporter today that the use of listening devices in the Islamic Republic of Iran's embassy in London by British intelligence services was against the Vienna conventions of '61 and '63, adding: The legal responsibility for this action falls on the British Government. Mr. Mottaki also said: This issue will be pursued through legal channels and the public will be informed of the results soon.

UK 'Absolutely Untrustworthy'

NC1405194594 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 30 Apr 94 p 15

[Editorial: "The British—Once Again on the Wrong Path!"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

It appears on the basis of current facts and figures that Iranian-British relations will never acquire any stability. The British seem constantly itching to disrupt existing relations with Tehran by taking advantage of the situation.

If we were to assess the history of Iranian-British political relations over a 15-year period, we would conclude that these relations were never trusting. On one day the British Government—in its emulation of the United States and as a sign of sympathy with Washington—mars relations with Iran because of the fall of the den of spies [U.S. Embassy in Tehran]. However, when it stands to lose, it grovels for eight years for the restoration of relations. Eventually, because of the requests and pleading on the part of London, relations were resumed. On another day the mischievous British, who have used the unfortunate Salman Rushdie as a tool for their policies, once again broke off relations and then apologized and relations were resumed.

Today, once again the British have adopted a new policy in their propaganda and are making new claims. The response to the latest British claims is something that pertains to our Foreign Ministry, which on principle has delivered a firm and poised response on this matter.

However, it is essential that our officials should study this dossier and learn the appropriate lessons. They should reach the conclusion that the British are not reliable people and therefore it is necessary that the level of relations with London should be reduced to a minimum, especially in the economic field.

We should not forget that even on sending our students to England the British sought to capitalize on this issue for political leverage. They even deprived our students at the doctorate level from presenting their dissertations and expelled them in a hostile and unprincipled way.

With such a black dossier, the British are absolutely untrustworthy and the objective of their latest game has not yet been revealed. In any case, it is necessary that the Foreign Ministry and the decisionmaking centers be vigilant and appraise all aspects of the issue so that the London Government cannot capitalize once again on this foolish politico-propagandistic game. The experience of the past 15 years since our Revolution proves that it is only possible in this manner to make London realize that it is mistaken in its calculations and is treading the wrong path.

British 'Machinations' Denounced

NC1405203094 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 1 May 94 p 2

[Commentary by M. Shahidi: "The Juggling of the Methuselah of Imperialism"]

[Excerpts] In the wake of the diplomatic battles that began between Iran and Britain with the summons of our charge d'affaires to the British Foreign Office on Thursday [28 April], the British mass media initiated a heavy political onslaught against the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

One cannot know with certainty what diplomatic or propaganda objectives are being pursued by the British, but certain issues that could be considered close to the truth can be mentioned regarding the current British-Iranian relations. The following points may help in shedding light on the latest act of politico-propagandistic blackmail by Britain:

1. Washington encountered defeat in disrupting financial dealings between Iran and Japan as well as the European countries, which resulted in its losing face on the international level. Therefore, Britain in its capacity as the European political pillar of the United States resorted to this new politico-propagandistic blackmail to unite the Western front against Iran. [passage omitted]

2. The contempt that Whitehall is sustaining in view of the categorical stance of the Iranian leadership and government and the British Government's pressure, which it tried to exert by various means, has not been able to have the slightest effect on Iran's stance on the Rushdie issue. [passage omitted]

3. The fact that the latest British propaganda coincided with the session of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] contact group, especially on the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina, cannot be considered incidental.

It is no secret that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the foremost proclaimer of the oppression of the Bosnian Muslims, while the British Government is considered among those directly to blame among the so-called civilized Western countries for this situation. So far all the efforts to lift the embargo against the Bosnian Muslims have been foiled by the government of Great Britain! [passage omitted]

4. Despite our categorical denial of these accusations, and while we consider ourselves innocent of any connection with the internal crisis in Britain that stems from its domineering policies, we cannot refrain from being amazed at the double-standard approach of the West in general and Britain in particular toward the same matter. How is it that the British Government actively supports Iranian terrorist organizations whose hands are stained with the blood of thousands of innocent Iranian people and officials and there are overt contacts between the leaders of these terrorist organizations and the British officials? London endorses these meetings and contacts without any qualms and considers them symbols of democracy, but raises a hue and cry over the "possibility" of Iran's links with the IRA. [passage omitted]

In our opinion, the latest British ploy stems from the weakness and impotence of the Methuselah of 19th-century colonialism in resolving its domestic crises and its sheer helplessness in the face of the decisive stances of Iran, and it is doomed to failure from the outset.

Thus, the Islamic Republic of Iran should adopt a more aggressive politico-propagandistic policy and should rub the nose of the British into the dust and show that country that pursuing the policies of the arch-Satan will not benefit it. Therefore, it is necessary that this old Methuselah of colonialism should relinquish its melancholia [malikhowlia] and learn that the protection of the boundaries of countries and reciprocal respect in political relations is the primary principle of wholesome diplomatic relations and the adoption of a policy without dignity that resorts to political machinations and false accusations cannot pressure a capable government to change its stance.

MP: Tehran Could Break Ties

NC1605102194 Paris AFP in English 0851 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 16 (AFP)—Iran could break ties with Britain if London failed to provide a convincing explanation over the alleged bugging of the Iranian embassy, MP [Member of Parliament] Majid Naderi said Monday [16 May].

Tehran said last Wednesday that a listening device had been found late April inside a wall at the Iranian embassy in London. Britain has refused to comment on the affair.

Naderi, a member of parliament's foreign affairs subcommittee, told ABRAR newspaper there was a possibility "of any kind of conflict" with London, but that the National Security Council would have to give its opinion first.

"If the British government does not come up with a convincing explanation over the spying, a break in relations is possible," he said.

Tehran has strongly protested against the bugging and said it would "weaken relations with Britain."

Several newspapers here have urged the government to reconsider economic ties with Britain, which is Iran's fourth biggest trade partner.

Committee To Work With Zagreb on Bosnia Aid

LD1405102794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] The Imam Khomeyni Relief Committee and the Zagreb Merhamet [Charity] Foundation will be cooperating in giving aid to Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In a meeting with the Imam Khomeyni Relief Committee, the head and other officials of the Merhamet Foundation, praising the Islamic Republic of Iran's extensive assistance given to the people of Bosnia, called for cooperation in the fields of agriculture, livestock rearing, and setting up of carpet-weaving workshops for women in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Imam Khomeyni Relief Committee supervisor declared readiness for all-round assistance for Bosnian Muslims and the exchange of experiences gained in relief work done for the deprived in that country.

Bosnia Peace Plan 'Reward for the Aggressor'

LD1605100294 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—A morning daily here Monday [16 May] said that the peace plan proposed by foreign ministers of the U.S., Russia and five Western European countries in Geneva Friday is nothing but a reward for the aggressor.

'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial commented on the peace plan according to which 51 percent of Bosnia-Herzegovina will go to a Muslim-Croat federation and 49 percent to the Serbs.

The peace plan endorsed by the said countries entails numerous difficulties wrote the daily, adding that such a bisection of the country is quite unfair and amounts to nothing less than presenting the aggressor with an award.

This is not at all surprising since the entire economic structure in the western world is founded on a few basic pillars, the daily said.

"One of the most critical of these pillars is the arms industry which provides, next to the narcotics, the greatest amount of revenues for the western countries", the paper added.

Naturally an arms industry can thrive only if there are wars and aggression, the article noted and added that western countries claim that they intend to punish the aggressor and bring an end to the war which cannot possibly be true for such a policy would deprive them of one of their highly lucrative lines of business.

That is why seven western countries which are among the greatest exporters of arms have rewarded the aggressor in order to insure the continued need for their products, wrote the article.

Saudi Arabia Bans Bosnia Aid Initiative

LD1505183594 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Holy Mecca, May 15, IRNA—Following the declaration of Dhihajja 4 (this year May 15) as the day of solidarity with the Bosnian people, Saudi Minister for Hajj Affairs Mahmud Bin-Muhammad al-Safar expressed his opposition to the initiative in a note to the head of the Iranian hajj pilgrims here today.

Al-Safar in his note said he had been informed that Iranian hajj headquarters intended to collect aid for Bosnia-Herzegovina through several centers in Mecca, Medina and Jeddah airport.

"Since no agreements have been reached on the issue earlier, I want you to immediately order the officials of the Iranian hajj headquarters to give up the initiative," he said, adding "Saudi security agents will ban such efforts."

Head of the Iranian Hajj pilgrims Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammad Reyshahri, expressing surprise on the remarks, said the Saudi Government raised the issue of helping Bosnian Muslims on the one hand, and banned the Iranian pilgrims from collecting aid for the Bosnian Muslims on the other.

"The issue of collecting aid in the way mentioned in the letter is not true," Hoj. Reyshahri said in reply.

He said Iranian pilgrims prayed for the victory of their Bosnian brothers during a ceremony on Saturday night, when they were told that they could donate their aid for the Bosnian Muslims.

A ceremony commemorating the Bosnian martyrs was also held at the headquarters here today in which Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims expressed their support for their Bosnian brothers and sisters.

Meanwhile, Saudi commandos, stationed around the headquarters Sunday afternoon, banned non-Iranian pilgrims from coming to the headquarters.

Khamene'i Speaks on Press Responsibilities

LD1405193994 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, the eminent leader of the revolution, delivered a speech this morning in a meeting with people and officials involved in the country's press, in which he described the press as very important because of the effective and determining role it plays in guiding public opinion. He stressed the need for benefiting from the freedom of the press to raise the level of knowledge, information, farsightedness, insight, and broad-mindedness among the people.

The eminent leader said that the country's press community embraced the most prominent personalities from the world of culture, thought, and the written word, and he said the following about the importance of the work carried out by the press: The press and all publications hold a special and very important position because they play a constant role in guiding their readers, and because they influence the actions and behavior of society and, for this reason, working for the press must not be seen as a mere job.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i went on to say the following about the duties and responsibilities of the press: The people involved with the press must possess greater knowledge, insight, and judgement than others with respect to all issues relating to daily life and social developments. On this basis, it is their duty to convey the required information to the people of this country and society, as well as to raise the people's level of knowledge in various fields, because the reason why the press comes into existence is to spread and publicize human knowledge and insight in various subjects.

The eminent leader of the revolution stressed that it was one of the duties of the press to politicize the people and the society and he added: In today's world, the press community must stride towards politicizing the people and towards propagating a spirit of being involved in and caring for politics among the people, because the public becomes less vulnerable in a politicized society. Increasing the people's capacity for political understanding and for analyzing and recognizing political trends, tendencies, and motives is a necessity in order to confront the ploys and conspiracies of the big news agencies; the press must fulfill its responsibilities towards this end.

Elsewhere in his speech, the eminent leader said that another duty of the press was to strengthen social ties and national unity, as well as to nurture self-confidence and hope in the future among all the people, adding: The press must fight against disunity, the loss of self-confidence, and the weakening of the national spirit, and it must pledge its loyalty to anything that leads to a coming together of and unity between all the members of the nation; it must strive to preserve our national identity and all the foundations of this entity and realm.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said that the country's press—regardless of their normal line—must adopt a joint stance in response to enemy attacks and he said that this was one of the duties of a press belonging to the nation, adding: Elements within the press community who do not abide by the decisive and inviolable responsibilities of the press are guilty of injustice and making the press profane.

Stating that the freedom of the press today was unprecedented in the history of Iranian media, the esteemed leader of the revolution said: The press in Iran today has a more complete freedom in comparison to all other periods and every writer and thinker can write and publish whatever he thinks.

Referring to unhappiness among some officials regarding some publications, articles, and writers as a clear sign for the existence of press freedom, the esteemed leader said: Those who use the press freedom to bring dissatisfaction among sincere, enthusiastic, and selfless officials of the country are committing an indecent act but meanwhile some pretend that the writers are working under the threat of naked swords. However you all know that no naked sword threatens writers and journalists.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i called on the press to pay attention to the need for discipline, as well as respect for law and set limits and said: Those in the press community who understand the circumstances and enjoy work ethics must use press freedom and the opportunity it provides in full to improve popular understanding, knowledge, vision, intellectualism, and clear vision, to compensate for the existing underdevelopment and to utilize the many existing potentials and the extensive material and spiritual possibilities of the country.

The esteemed leader of the country said the general situation with the press in the country, despite some positive points, was not satisfactory, and referring to inclinations in the press towards populism and popularism added: A press which acts according to popular taste can not progress, because in all countries the press must be a leader not a follower. Furthermore, the press must fight low productivity and value the serious writing of articles, analysis, and scientific work.

Stating that it was wrong to publish the analytic-type news that is produced by Zionist news agencies and broadcasting organizations in the country's press, the esteemed leader of the revolution said: Many news reports of arrogant news agencies and Zionist broadcasting organizations—which are fully published in the Iranian press—are not truly news, but their biased analysis and views which are reproduced in the form of news. The Iranian press should therefore be vigilant and should not become the instrument of foreign powers'

media and it is therefore necessary to fully and correctly understand their news and publish them only after separating the news essence from the analysis.

Criticizing some of the country's press for failing to see the enmity of the enemies of the Islamic order, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: Neither one of our enemies is gentleman-like and we have seen no gentlemanly behavior from America, Britain, Zionists, the defunct regime of apartheid in South Africa, and the communists. Their ungentlemanly and cowardly behavior made us realize and better understand them. The enmity of the enemy therefore must not be overlooked because it awaits every opportunity to bring down a blow against us.

Stating that West's intolerance regarding the Islamic dress of Muslim women or a true article in their press clearly indicated the West's bias and petrification as well as the rule of passions and tribal bias in Europe, the leader of the Islamic revolution finally said: The press in the Islamic Republic of Iran have a truly important position because the strength of the country as well as the improvement of civilization and social culture depends on the situation of the press and those involved in the press must try to execute this great responsibility as well as possible.

Prior to the speech by the esteemed leader, Mr. Mirsalim, the minister of culture and Islamic guidance, spoke briefly about journalists as the those who recognize the difficulties of the country's cultural domain and stressed the need to follow the strategy of the esteemed leader in order to fight ignorance, inability, decadence, and promote knowledge, thought, research and correct understanding.

Maneuvers Planned Near Iraqi Border

LD1505170394 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 May 94

[Excerpt] On the third of Khordad [24 May], the anniversary of the epic of liberating Khorramshahr [from Iraqi occupation in 1982], victory bells will toll in the country's schools.

Mr. Chamran, the cultural deputy of the armed forces general staff, while announcing the above, said: On the third of Khordad, named the day of resistance and victory, some units of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will stage a maneuver in the regions of Khorramshahr and Jofeyr. [passage omitted]